

Palestinian shot in Hebron riots dies

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — A Palestinian teenager shot in the head by Israeli troops during clashes in the West Bank town of Hebron died Thursday in a Jerusalem hospital after a month in a coma, hospital sources said. Yusef Jaabari, 14, arrived at Magasid hospital unconscious with a rubber-coated bullet in his brain on July 5 and never revived despite several operations. He died Thursday morning, a nurse at the hospital said. Jaabari was shot by Israeli soldiers during three weeks of clashes between soldiers and stone-throwing Palestinian youths in the divided town of Hebron in early July. One other Palestinian youth was killed and hundreds were injured in the riots, which were sparked by frustration at the long-stalled peace process and an anti-Islamic poster which was put up by a Jewish extremist in Hebron. (See picture below)

Volume 22 Number 6610

AMMAN SATURDAY, AUGUST 16, 1997, RABI II 13, 1418

Price: Jordan 200 Fils

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية عربية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية. الراي

Sanaa accuses opposition parties of Aden attacks

SANAA (AFP) — The Yemeni authorities Thursday accused two opposition parties, the Yemeni Socialist Party (YSP) and League of the South of Yemen (LSY), of instigating attacks in the southern city of Aden at the end of July. Investigations of people arrested for the bombings prove that most of the perpetrators belong to the YSP and the LSY, a security official was reported by the official SABA news agency as saying. "This conspiracy aims to destabilise the country and to hurt private and public interests by carrying out attacks in Aden and other cities," the official, who was not identified, said. The Yemeni authorities have announced the arrest of five suspects and said they confessed to taking part in the dynamite attacks on three gas stations in Aden during July.

Car of Israeli cab driver found in Jericho

JERICHO (AP) — The bloodstained car of a missing Israeli taxi driver was found Friday night in a refugee camp outside the Palestinian-controlled city of Jericho, Israeli police said. Shmuel Ben Baruch, a Jerusalem resident, had been missing since Thursday night, police spokesman Linda Menahem said. Palestinian police cooperated with Israeli police and troops to search the area of the Akbat Jaber refugee camp, Israel's West Bank police commander Moshe Sidbon said. Mr. Sidbon said the car was found in an area where stolen cars are stripped. "At this stage there are a number of people under arrest by the police and we hope to make progress as time passes," he told Israel's channel one television.

Arafat supporters stage anti-Israeli rally in Hebron

HEBRON (AFP) — Around 400 members of Palestinian President Yasser Arafat's Fateh faction, many of them masked and armed, staged an anti-Israeli rally in the West Bank town of Hebron on Thursday. Demonstrators carrying knives, axes and pistols marched through the centre of the city, often a flashpoint for violence, chanting slogans calling for attacks against Israeli settlers, witnesses said. The marchers also set fire to an Israeli flag, they said.

Attackers slit throats of fifteen people near Algiers

DOUERA (AFP) — Attackers slit the throats of fifteen people, including six children and two women, overnight in a district of Douera south of Algiers, an Agence France Presse correspondent observed Thursday. According to survivors who fled, two families living in a slum area called Ouled Jilali were massacred at around 1:00 a.m. Also Thursday, Al Khabar newspaper said that at least 29 villagers, including 20 women, were killed in two separate massacres in the Ain Defla region near Algiers earlier this week. A series of bloody massacres attributed to militants have left more than 800 dead since legislative polls on June 5.

Israelis see no peace with Syria in near future — poll

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Nearly three Israelis out of four have no faith in the current Israeli government's ability to make peace with Syria, according to a poll broadcast Friday on Israeli television. Seventy per cent of those asked do not believe that "peace is possible with Syria" under the current right-wing coalition government. Thirty per cent disagreed. Fifty-four per cent said that they do not believe that a government headed by the opposition Labour Party leader, Ehud Barak, could make peace with Syria either. However, 46 per cent said they thought Mr. Barak could conclude a peace with Damascus. According to another poll published a week ago, half of all Israelis say they are ready to give the entire Golan Heights back to Syria.

King reiterates door open for dialogue, calls on all to share in construction of Kingdom

AQABA (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein has reiterated that the door for dialogue between the government and political parties is open and stressed that the Nov. 4 parliamentary elections will be free and fair calling on all Jordanians to participate in electing their representatives for the 13th Parliament. Addressing a public rally held in Aqaba to welcome the King on his visit, the King said "with God's will the elections will be fair and free and will be held on schedule. I hope that all those who feel they can offer services to their nation will run for elections. We seek to enhance democracy and hope for the partici-

ipation of all people in the construction of their nation."

Reiterating his previous assertion that the door for dialogue is open, the King said: "In the coming stage, the door for dialogue will be open and should be among various factions. The dialogue should not be restricted to a particular faction but should involve all those working in political affairs and should be based on the country's Constitution and the National Charter."

"Whoever has ideas for enriching the march of democracy should come forward and so serve as a positive element in the democratic march," said the King.

But he warned that "there are principled stands which cannot be tampered with and these are: the Constitution, the National Charter and the rights of Jordanians. All people have equal rights."

"We intend to make sure that all people in different parts of this country will have their voice heard in Parliament where they can present their demands and their needs. Our life must be ruled by law and we should display coherence and cooperation for the common good of this nation," stressed the King.

King Hussein also added that he wants to see democracy continuing in Jordan. "There are those who say

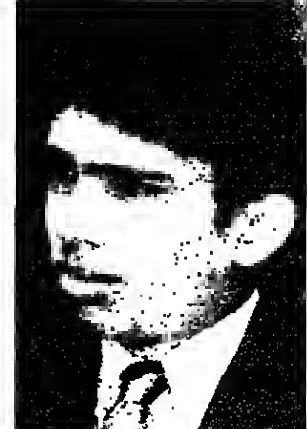
the King should be a referee, not a ruler. The King has never been a ruler... the party that rules this country is the people through the government, through the Lower House of Parliament and the Senate," the King added.

He also noted that democracy is not alien to the Arabs and Muslims noting that they have always resorted to shura, which is democracy, to deal with various issues.

The rally which was organised at the Jordanian Ports Corporation was attended by HRH Prince Hamzah, Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali and prominent public figures.

Prince Rashid recovering after car accident; doctors say is in good condition

AMMAN (J.T.) — HRH Prince Rashid Ben Al Hasan is recovering from injuries he sustained in a car accident that took the life of his aide-de-camp and a visiting American friend as they drove on the Wadi Araba Highway towards Aqaba Friday afternoon, a Royal Court statement said. Another passenger in the Prince's car, Zeid Omar Bdeir, was also slightly injured and is recovering in hospital, the statement said. The deceased are Major Salameh Talab Kassab and Mark Schmidt of the United States. The Prince, 18, and Mr. Bdeir were taken first to Princess Haya Hospital in Aqaba then flown by helicopter to the King Hussein Medical Centre in Amman. Doctors treating Prince



HRH Prince Rashid

Rashid and Mr. Bdeir said that both are in good and stable condition and the injuries they sustained were minor.

His Majesty King Hussein was present at Princess Haya Hospital to follow up

on the conditions of Prince Rashid and Mr. Bdeir, the statement said.

No other vehicles were involved in the accident. Prince Rashid was accompanying his guests to Aqaba when the accident occurred at around 4:00 p.m.

The Royal Court expressed its "deep grief and great sorrow" over the deaths of Maj. Kassab and Mr. Schmidt, and offered its "heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families."

Their Royal Highnesses Crown Prince Hassan and Princess Sarvath expressed their deepest appreciation for the thoughtful sentiments of those who have visited and sent messages and kindly request that in lieu of sending flowers donations be made to charitable organisations.

Palestinians wail economic woes as Israel demands security action

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat protested to the United States over increasing economic damage caused by tough Israeli sanctions, but Israel said Friday it was still waiting for a Palestinian offensive against terrorism before lifting the measures.

Mr. Arafat spoke by phone overnight with U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright and complained of the "very bad economic situation caused by the Israeli measures," the official Palestinian news agency Wafa said.

He protested to her that the 16-day-old seal of the occupied territories and the freezing of millions of dollars in funds Israel owes his self-rule authority were "unjustified and arbitrary."

But Israeli officials countered Friday that the Palestinians had still not launched an offensive against Palestinian militants they say are hiding in self-rule areas and planning anti-Israeli attacks.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu sent a list of security moves which his government demands the Palestinians take before any easing of the tough sanctions, the daily Yediot Aharanot said.

"We still haven't seen the kinds of actions we would expect from a regime that is fighting terrorism," government spokesman Moshe Fogel told AFP.

"They have been dragging their feet. It's not just a matter of arrests, it's also a matter of following up on leads and information that we give them," he said.

In a further easing of its two-week-old blockade of the Palestinian areas, Israel authorised Thursday a resumption of merchandise shipments into the Gaza



Palestinian men lay the body of Yusef Ibrahim Jaabari in his grave Thursday. The 14-year-old youth, who was shot by Israeli troops in the head during clashes in Hebron last month, died of his wounds earlier in the day and was given a heroes funeral accompanied by a Palestinian police honour guard (Reuters photo)

Strip, with the exception of construction materials, the army said.

Ms. Albright will probably visit the region in September for a long-awaited political initiative to break the six-month deadlock in the peace process, a State Department spokesman said.

She has backed the Israeli position, saying Mr. Arafat must work to root out "the infrastructure of terrorism groups" before political moves to end the crisis in the peace process can begin.

But while the U.S. has not criticised the closure on the territories — a move deemed to have security purposes — a senior U.S. official said Washington has brought pressure on Mr. Netanyahu to repay the \$40 million owed the Palestinians, a sanction he said has "nothing

to do with security."

Without the funds, mostly taxes and customs duties which Israel collects for the Palestinians, the self-rule authority has been unable to pay July salaries to the 30,000 members of its security forces and most of its 84,000 civilian employees, a senior Palestinian official told AFP. According to Israeli officials, some 80,000 Palestinian labourers and merchants who used to enter Israel legally for jobs have been put out of work by the closure, as well as an estimated 30,000 more who entered illegally.

Israel maintained a ban on construction materials entering the Gaza Strip when it eased the seal Thursday allowing the transport of other merchandise in and out of the territories.

Israel and Palestinian security officials will meet for the fourth time Monday with officials from the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) to review Palestinian action against militants in a security mechanism set up last week by U.S. peace envoy Dennis Ross.

Israel has already handed the Palestinians a list of some 230 people it demands be arrested for involvement in organising anti-Israeli attacks, a senior Palestinian official told AFP.

He said arresting the names on the list would be a "recipe for civil war," saying it named members of Mr. Arafat's own security forces as well as members of the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, Islamic Jihad and secular opposition groups.

Netanyahu says he prefers 'democratic' peace partners

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Thursday he was in favour of peace talks with the Palestinians for "coexistence" but that he would prefer dealing with "democratic" partners.

Mr. Netanyahu said in a speech at the National Defence College in Tel Aviv that he wanted to continue the peace dialogue as a "condition of coexistence."

"We would have preferred to have democrats for partners, but we have not intervened in their internal affairs," he added. Mr. Netanyahu also warned in the speech that Israel's technological advance was slowing in comparison with our neighbours. "Over the last few years, Iran, which was once our ally, has become, with its long-range missiles, the main source of threats of non-conventional war against us," he said.

The hardline Israeli premier also said he wanted to "widen the circle of peace which has gathered strength around Israel since the fall of the Soviet empire."

Albright set to go to Middle East no later than September

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Secretary of State Madeleine Albright has decided to make her first trip to the Middle East but may go in September rather than later this month, the State Department said Thursday.

Spokesman James Rubin also said Ms. Albright was considering other stops in the region aside from Israel and the Palestinian self-rule areas, but gave no details. "I think it's fair to say there

is a possibility the trip will be in September. I wouldn't expect it to go much beyond that," Mr. Rubin said.

Ms. Albright met earlier in the day with the special Mideast coordinator Dennis Ross who returned from a four-day mission to the region to try to improve security cooperation following the July 30 suicide bombings in Jerusalem.

Mr. Ross gave an upbeat assessment of his talks.

telling Ms. Albright that cooperation between the Palestinians and Israel may soon reach a level that would allow Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to lift the blockade on Palestinian areas. Mr. Ross "believes that there is a good chance that in the coming days, there will be the kind of security cooperation that will enable the prime minister to reverse the steps," Mr. Rubin said, referring to the sanctions.

Arabs plan to defy U.N. imposed air embargo on Libya since 1992

CAIRO (AFP) — Arab foreign ministers are set to agree in September to defy an international air and military embargo imposed on Libya in 1992 for its alleged support of terrorism, the Arab League said Thursday.

Ministers from the league's 22 members will discuss measures aimed at "easing" the embargo at a meeting on Sept. 20 and 21 in Cairo without consulting the United Nations, a league official said.

"These measures are contained in a plan which has just been drawn up by the Arab League and Libya," the official said, asking not to be named.

"Arab countries will not ask for U.N. Security Council approval for the plan, espe-

cially since it concerns logical measures which have the backing of most European countries and Western companies operating in Libya," he said.

He said they were aimed at "easing the suffering of the Libyan people."

Under the plan, Arab countries will allow Libyan planes transporting government officials to overfly or land on their territory.

Libyan flights for humanitarian or religious ends will also be authorised by Arab countries.

The U.N. imposed sanctions on Libya after it refused to hand over to the United States or Britain two suspects in the bombing of a U.S. airliner over Lockerbie, Scotland, in 1988 in which 270

people died. Libya must also cooperate with investigators of the downing of a French UTA jetliner over Niger in 1989 that killed 170.

The league official said the new plan acts on resolutions from an Arab summit held in Cairo in June last year, which criticised the "unjust" U.N. sanctions on Libya.

Arab leaders threatened at the summit to violate the embargo, warning that "the continuation of sanctions is likely to push Arab states to examine ways to prevent further harm to the Libyan people." The Arab countries back Libya's proposal to have the two Lockerbie suspects tried by Scottish judges at the International Court of Justice in The Hague.

Yemeni kidnappers free 4 Italians, 6 still held

SANAA (AFP) — Four Italian tourists kidnapped in Yemen have been released unharmed but six more remain in the hands of tribesmen in the Arabian peninsula country, Italian officials said Friday.

The four holidaymakers, who were snatched in northern Yemen Thursday, were released overnight and said they had received VIP treatment from their tribal kidnappers.

One of them, Danilo Manganiello, 32, telephoned his mother in Fossano in northern Italy to tell her. "The kidnappers gave us whisky, cakes and other delicacies."

Undaunted, the four from northern Italy continued with their holiday Friday.

The four tourists rejoined the 11 other members of their tour group who waited for them in the Saida region," said Roberto Vesperini, an

attaché at the Italian embassy in Sanaa.

"They are in very good condition," Mr. Vesperini told Agence France Presse.

Mr. Manganiello, 32, Franco Radogna, 34, Mirella Bessone, 31, and Paola Silvestro, 28, were abducted as they visited Khami, around 100 kilometres north of Sanaa.

Six other Italian tourists were kidnapped by tribesmen in the south of the country, Wednesday and the Yemeni government was negotiating Friday for their release. Mr. Vesperini said.

"Everything is fine. For the six people, the government got in touch with the kidnappers," he said.

The six, who include two children, were kidnapped Wednesday as they headed from Mukallah, a resort on the Indian Ocean coast, to the main southern city of Aden.

A government official said the kidnappers are members of the Maraziq tribe who are holding their hostages in Abyan province, around 400 kilometres southeast of Sanaa.

The official, who asked not to be named, did not specify the kidnappers' demands.

The hostages were identified as two couples from Naples in southern Italy, one with a nine-year-old son and another with a daughter aged 10.

One of them, Enrico De Notaris, left a message on his brother's answering machine in Italy Thursday saying all the hostages in his group were well. "Don't be concerned. I think that we were kidnapped for economic reasons," he added.

There have been four kidnappings of Italian tourists by unruly Yemeni tribesmen in less than a month.



GET THEM OUT BEFORE MORE DIE: Mothers of Israeli soldiers serving in Lebanon demonstrate at the Defence Ministry in Tel Aviv Friday. They are demanding Israel pull out following the death of 1,214 Israelis since the invasion of Lebanon 15 years ago. The sign on the left reads 'four mothers' and the sign on the right says '1214 killed. When did we become indifferent?' (Reuters Photo)

Israel admits responsibility for amount of mosquitoes in Aqaba, works to stop cause

By Ramadan Rawashdeh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Israeli officials taking part in the environment committee of the bilateral and multilateral talks Friday admitted that the Municipality of Eilat is responsible for the increase of the number of mosquitoes in both Eilat and Aqaba areas.

The Israeli Environment Ministry Director General

Nihama Ronen said in a letter to the Jordan Valley Authority Secretary General Dureid Mahasneh, head of the Jordanian environment delegation, that "the Israeli ministry will do all its best to solve this problem out of its commitment to improve the living conditions of the two peoples."

Ms. Ronen said: "The Eilat municipality will no longer allow into the sea

any waste water coming out from its treatment plants."

She added that waste water will be treated in the northern parts of the city in order to use for agricultural projects.

Ms. Ronen emphasised that specialists from the municipality sprayed insecticides against mosquitoes and took several suitable measures to solve the problem.

Dr. Mahasneh has lately sent a letter to the Israeli side in which he called on the Israelis to take appropriate measures to solve the problem and to prevent the leakage of waste water into the sea which caused a remarkable increase in the number of mosquitoes.

In his letter, Dr. Mahasneh said that such a problem adversely affects tourism.

Turkish parliament enacts law to free some jailed journalists

ANKARA (AP) — Parliament on Thursday approved an amnesty bill that should free at least a few of the 89 journalists in Turkish prisons.

The bill suspended the sentences of managing editors serving jail terms for publishing articles which were seen as a threat to the country's national security. But if the editor is convicted of a similar crime within the next three years, the suspended sentence would be added to any new one.

President Suleyman Demirel signed the bill only hours after it was approved in parliament. Among the jailed journalists, only 10 are managing

editors serving time for convictions based on stories in their publications. It was not clear how many of them would benefit from the new law.

Most of the others in jail are reporters charged with crimes related to a terror campaign by Kurdish separatists. At least one editor who became the symbol of jailed journalists in Turkey was expected to get amnesty.

Ocak Isik Yurtcu, who was managing editor of the defunct pro-Kurdish daily Ozgur Gundem, is serving the fourth year of a 16-year sentence for publishing "separatist propaganda." He is likely to be released

Friday after the bill is published in the official paper. "Suspended sentences are not enough," the Anatolian news agency quoted Mr. Yurtcu as saying from prison. "All my colleagues convicted or under trial for crimes of thought need to be released."

The bill stemmed from a visit last month by a media delegation led by Terry Anderson, vice-chairman of the New York-based committee to protect journalists, last month. The delegation sought wider press freedom in Turkey.

Mr. Yurtcu received the committee's 1996 Press Freedom Award. Anderson, a former priest as terrorist propaganda.

Associated Press bureau chief held hostage for nearly seven years by Islamist militants in Lebanon, went to Mr. Yurtcu's prison cell to present the award.

The delegation received a pledge from Prime Minister Mesut Yilmaz to release Mr. Yurtcu. Turkish laws prohibit journalists from covering certain issues in ways unfavourable to the government. The most thorny issue is the country's Kurdish problem.

Stories which criticise the military's heavy-handed treatment of the Kurds in the southeast have been interpreted as terrorist propaganda.

Israeli-Arabs wrap up 'historic' visit to Syria

DAMASCUS (AFP) — Israeli-Arabs wrapped up a first ever visit to Syria on Thursday saying they would return to Israel with a message of peace.

"Our visit is historic because Syria is the sanctuary of Arabism. We are very satisfied with our visit which accomplished all its goals," the 50-member delegation said in a statement at the end of the week-long visit.

"We had the honour of being received by Syrian President Hafez Assad who, informed us of his ideas and we are returning [to Israel] full of hope and determined to make known Syria's desire for a just and comprehensive peace," the statement said. Mr. Assad told the delegation on Tuesday that Syria was committed to achieving peace in the region.

The delegation, which included members of the Israeli parliament, was the first from Israel to travel to its arch-foe Syria for political talks since 1948. The two countries are in a state of war.

"We were able, for the first time, to shake the Syrian hand extended to us after decades of forced separation," the group said.

Nawaf Massalha, a Labour deputy in the Israeli Knesset said all the members of the delegation, which included mayors, intellectuals, journalists and five other deputies, signed the statement.

The Israeli-Arabs also said they planned to "oppose those who want war, occupation and expansion and the right-wing [Israeli] government which is hampering the peace process and shirks its commitments under the Oslo accords" on Palestinian autonomy.

Members of the delegation met Wednesday night with leaders of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) which is opposed to the Israeli-Palestinian peace accords.

Palestinian peace accords, the group said Thursday.

PFLP spokesman Maher Al Taher said several of the Israeli-Arabs met with the group's political bureau at its Damascus headquarters.

Israeli-Arab Mayor Ibrahim Nimr Hussein told the radicals of constraints imposed on Palestinians who stayed on after the creation of the state of Israel in 1948. Mr. Taher told Agence France Presse.

Mr. Taher quoted Mr. Hussein as saying that Israeli-Arabs are "prevented by Israel from building on their own land to prevent the emergence of new Arab neighbourhoods."

He also said Mr. Hussein feared that Israel was preparing for war against the Palestinians, Lebanon and Syria "in order to get out of its economic and political crisis."

The visit, the first by Israeli-Arabs to Syria since Israel's creation, has provoked a storm of protest in Israel.

Ruling right-wing and far-right parties in Israel have accused the delegation of being a "fifth column" and demanded in vain the lifting of parliamentary immunity against some of its members.

Even Israel's left-wing opposition, whose members were among the delegation, criticised the visitors for appearing to forget their Israeli citizenship.

The delegation was set to leave Damascus Thursday for Cairo, from where it will travel to Israel.

Israeli-Arabs, the descendants of Palestinians who stayed in the newly-created state of Israel in 1948, represent around 18 per cent of the Israeli population.

On-off peace talks between Israel and Syria have been completely frozen since February 1996 over the issue of the Golan Heights, which was captured by Israel in 1967.

Israeli-Arab visit to Syria provokes storm of protest

TEL AVIV (AFP) — The first visit to Syria by a group of Israeli-Arabs, including some members of the Israeli parliament, has provoked a storm of protest in Israel.

Ruling right-wing and far-right parties have accused the 50-strong delegation of being a "fifth column" and demanded in vain the lifting of parliamentary immunity against some of its members.

Even Israel's left-wing opposition, whose members were among the delegation, criticised the visitors for appearing to forget their Israeli citizenship.

Especially galling for the Jewish majority here is the praise lavished by the Israeli Arabs on their arch-foe, Syrian president Hafez Assad, who met the delegation on Tuesday.

Israeli Labour party MP Saleh Tarif declared after the meeting: "I fell under President Assad's charm. He is an open man, warm, friendly and is fond of peace."

The Israeli press expressed amazement that the MP, a reservist commander of the Israeli army and chairman of the important parliamentary committee for the interior, could speak in such glowing terms of the leader of an enemy state.

Yet Mr. Tarif was one of the more reserved members of the Israeli-Arab delegation.

Other members visited a Palestinian refugee camp in Yarmouk and won applause for their pledge that the displaced will be able to "return to Palestine."

Israel opposes the return of Palestinians who fled their homes in the 1948 war of independence and who now number around 3.4 million according to U.N. figures, on the grounds they would destroy the Jewish character of Israel.

"The MPs who promise a return of the refugees are giving themselves up to

senseless demagoguery. That's why the public is wrong to get upset," Israeli political expert Meron Benvenisti wrote in an ironical piece in the daily Haaretz.

Some of the delegation also made a symbolic visit to the home of Sheikh Izzeddin Al Qassam, a nationalist Palestinian leader, killed by the British in the 1930s after masterminding a campaign to attack Jewish settlers in Palestine.

The sheikh gave his name to the armed wing of the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas).

Other members of the delegation also came under fire here for meeting with Ahmad Jibril, head of a Syrian-backed armed Palestinian group which opposes the Israeli-Palestinian autonomy accords.

The head of the delegation, Mayor Ibrahim Nimr Hussein, also met with another group, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, on Wednesday and said Israel was preparing for war against the Arabs.

Israel's Deputy Defence Minister Sylvan Shalom described the delegation's behaviour as "shameful and extremist" on Wednesday.

Israeli-Arabs, the descendants of Palestinians who stayed put in 1948, represent around 18 per cent of the Israeli population and the visit to Damascus reflected their delicate position here.

On one hand they are proud to be Palestinians while on the other they are citizens of Israel, to which they are generally loyal despite their complaints of discrimination by Jews. Their political influence is growing, a fact which deeply irritates the right-wing here. An accord extending Palestinian autonomy on the West Bank in 1995 was passed in parliament thanks to the votes of Israeli Arab deputies.

Palestinian wrath may be aimed at Arafat's authority — DFLP

NICOSIA (AFP) — The head of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP), Nayef Hawatmeh, warned Thursday of a mass Palestinian explosion against the Palestinian National Authority (PNA).

In an interview with Radio France Internationale's Arabic service, Mr. Hawatmeh, whose group is opposed to the peace process, also accused the Palestinian

president of giving in to U.S. demands.

"Our people are blocked, and if the series of concessions that the Oslo team is making continues, the mass explosion... will be aimed at both Israeli occupation and settlement activity and at the PNA's corruption and repression," he said, according to a text of the interview sent to Agence France Presse.

"It is regrettable that Arafat has caved in to U.S. pressure at the expense of his people and the national consensus by resuming security cooperation with Israel," Mr. Hawatmeh said from Damascus where the DFLP is based.

U.S. envoy Dennis Ross, who left the region Wednesday after a four-day mediation mission, set up a framework for Israeli-Palestinian discussions on security matters under U.S. supervision.

Security cooperation was broken off by the Palestinians after Israel began work in mid-March on a Jewish settlement in Arab east Jerusalem.

Sixteen of the 22 Palestinian cabinet ministers offered to resign at the beginning of August after a Palestinian Legislative Council committee investigating corruption in the PNA called for the entire cabinet to quit.

The resignations have not so far been accepted.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

14:10Twinkle
14:30Wishbone
15:00Blue Heelers
15:30World Of Geo
16:00The Valley between
16:30Till
17:00French programmes
19:00Le Journal
19:30News headlines
19:35Neighbours
20:00Comedy — Ties that Bind
20:30Prism
21:10Time Trav
22:00News in English
22:30Feature film
23:59Ellen

PRAYER TIMES

04:31Fajr
05:55(Sunrise) Doha
12:40Dhuhr
16:19Asr
19:25Maghreb
20:49Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church
Swatki, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church Tel.
632785.
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation
Tel. 637440.
De la Salle Church Tel. 661656.
Terra Sancta Church Tel.
622366

Church of the Annunciation

Amman Tel. 623541

Anglican Church Tel. 652826.

Armenian Catholic Church
Tel. 771331.

Armenian Orthodox Church
Tel. 775261.

St. Ephraim Church Tel.
771751.

Armenian International Church
Tel. 5516245

Evangelical Lutheran Church
Tel. 824328.

German-speaking Evangelical
Congregation Tel. 845457

The Latter-Day Saints Tel.
654932.

Church of Nazareth Tel.
675691.

The Evangelical Local Church
in Amman Tel. 811295

English-speaking
Latin Catholics Parish Tel.
614190.

USEFUL TELEPHONE

NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:

Dr. Issam Asmar890504

Dr. Osama Al Hussein 847389

Dr. Khaldoun Klob816715

Dr. Nidal Al-Awad751672

Firas pharmacy661912

Ferdows pharmacy778336

Al Asama pharmacy637055

Nairouh pharmacy623672

Al Salam pharmacy636730

Yacoub pharmacy644945

Shamsani pharmacy637660

Najih pharmacy847632

IRBID:

Dr. Ghazi Ta'ammeh250080

Al Quds pharmacy(—)

ZARQA:

Dr. Nabil Safarini901323

Khalifeh pharmacy985417

Min./Max. temp.

Amman19/32

Aqaba25/40

Deserts18/36

Jordan Valley24/38

Yesterday's high temperatures:

Amman 31 Aqaba 40 Humidity

readings: Amman 27 per cent.

Aqaba 50 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE

NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:

Dr. Issam Asmar890504

Dr. Osama Al Hussein 847389

Dr. Khaldoun Klob816715

Dr. Nidal Al-Awad751672

Firas pharmacy661912

Ferdows pharmacy778336

Al Asama pharmacy637055

Nairouh pharmacy623672

Al Salam pharmacy636730

Yacoub pharmacy644945

Shamsani pharmacy637660

Najih pharmacy847632

IRBID:

Dr. Ghazi Ta'ammeh250080

Al Quds pharmacy(—)

ZARQA:

Dr. Nabil Safarini901323

Khalifeh pharmacy985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre637111

Civil Defence Department661111

Civil Defence Immediate Rescue630341

Civil Defence Emergency199

Rescue Police 192621111.

637777

Fire Brigade617101

Blood Bank775121

Highway Police843402

Traffic Police896390

Public Security Department630321

Hotel Complaints605800

Price Complaints661176

Water and Sewerage Complaints897467

Amman Municipality Complaints787111

Telephone Information (directory assistance)121

Overseas Calls010230

Central Amman Telephone Repairs623101

Abdali Telephone Repairs661101

Jordan Television773111

Radio Jordan774111

Water Authority680100

Jordan Electricity Authority815615

Electric Power Company636381

RJ Flight Information 08-

53200

Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-

53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:

Husseini Medical Centre813813/32

Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn644281/6

Akileh Maternity, J. Amn642441/2

Jabal Amman Maternity642362

Mallus, J. Amman636140

Palestine, Shamsani607071

Shamsani Hospital669131

University Hospital845845

Al-Muasher Hospital667227/9

The Islamic, Abdali 666126/37

Al-Ahli, Abdali663164/6

Italian, Al-Muhajreen777101/3

Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh775111/26

Army, Marka891611/15

Queen Alia Hospital 6024050

Amal Hospital674155

The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery865199

ZARQA:

Zarqa Govt. Hospital1025

Zarqa National Hospital1035

Zarqa National Hospital1035

Ibn Sina Hospital1050

Al Hikam Modern Hospital11:00

53200

Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-

53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:

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Al-Mu

Pakistan celebrates Independence Day

AMMAN (J.T.) — Pakistan's Independence day and 50th anniversary was celebrated in Jordan with great fervour and enthusiasm, according to an Embassy of Pakistan statement.

The day started with the traditional flag hoisting ceremony at the Embassy of Pakistan in which Ambassador Syed Ali Sarwar Naqvi raised the national flag on the lawn of the chancery premises in the presence of prominent Pakistanis, including members of the Pakistan Armed Forces, training in various Jordanian establishments, and members of the embassy, the statement said.

The ambassador read a message from the president and prime minister of Pakistan and spoke to the gathering regarding the significance of the Fiftyth Anniversary of Pakistan's Independence.

He called for collective prayers for Pakistan's progress and prosperity, the statement said.

In the evening, a large gala reception was hosted by the ambassador in the chancery premises, attended by members of the Royal family,



Pakistani Ambassador Syed Ali Sarwar Naqvi and Meher Naqvi, HRH Prince Ra'd, Deputy Prime Minister for Services and Minister of Administrative Development Dr. Abdullah Ensour, and Minister of Housing and Public Works Nasser Lawzi attend celebrations for Pakistan's Independence Day (Petra photo)

ministers, parliamentarians, Jordanians in various fields, as well as members of the diplomatic corps, the statement concluded.

'Over 25 women to participate in 1997 elections'

By Elia Nasrallah and Rana Hussein
Jordan Times Staff Reporters

AMMAN — In contrast to the 1989 and 1993 parliamentary elections, in which a small number of women candidates ran for Parliament, the 1997 elections are expected to boast over 25 women competing for the 80-member Lower House.

According to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, at least 30 women, in various constituencies, will be running in the Nov. 4 elections.

The majority will be competing for seats in the five electoral districts of the capital.

However, according to Director of the Media Unit at the Princess Basma Women's Resource Centre (PBWRC) Awni Bader, in which place many women candidates are seeking statistical and analytical information regarding the previous elections, this number is not definite.

"Currently, many women are considering running," Mr. Bader said. "However, we expect that [the estimated] numbers will change, and probably decrease."

Many women are still

deliberating among themselves, and with their family and tribe members, he explained.

"In some areas, women candidates must first gain their respective clan's approval before running, as their tribes will secure their votes," according to Mr. Bader.

He told the Jordan Times that out of the nearly 30 women listed to run for elections, only 11 women have actually confirmed and pledged to run for Parliament.

These women, according to Mr. Bader, are: Aysheh Khwaja Razem (first district); Toujan Faisal, for the Circassian seat, and Emily Nafaa for the Christian seat (third district); Laila Faisal and Hiam Kalimat (fifth district); Eldeh Mutlaq (Baqaa); Nadia Bushnaq and Jalileh Hiyasat (Zarqa); Siham Baiyaidah (Karak); and Alia Akhu Rashideh and Fatimeh Obaidat (Mafraq).

In 1989, all 12 women running for Parliament failed to reach their goal. This result, according to observers, led to only three women running for the 1993 elections, in which one woman, Toujan Faisal, won a seat in the

Lower House.

Women activists blamed the one-person, one-vote system, stating that it lessened women's chances of reaching Parliament and described it as "discriminatory, backwards and strengthening tribalism."

To avoid repeating previous disappointments, and to better represent women in political life, Mr. Bader described the Jordanian National Committee for Women and the Jordan National Forum for Women as cooperating with PBWRC with funding from the European Union.

"These organisations are conducting programmes designed to boost Jordanian women's status while emphasising their roles in political and social life," he asserted.

These programmes take the form of seminars, workshops and other activities designed to increase awareness among Jordanian women as to the importance of involvement in political life, Mr. Bader maintained.

Additionally, 126 seminars were organised around Jordan, to discuss citizen rights, Jordanian laws and other issues relevant to women. Approximately

188 workshops are expected to convene in different parts of Jordan concerning the elections from now until election day.

Other women who are still considering running for the 1997 elections, according to Petra, include: Ayshe Abbadi (Fifth District); Hayat Maisami, Asmaa Rawahneh, Raedah Hamameh and Nawal Faouri (Mada'ah); Khuzama Rashid, Shadia Tel, Amineh Malak, Huda Fakouri, May Abul Samen and Ajayeb Hadyes (Baqaa); Sawzan Yakhlef, (Zarqa); Shahireh Majali, Zakieh Shamaleh, Wisal Qousus, Ibtisam Eshoush and Jamileh Mahasneh (Karak); Da'ad Sultan, May Toujan, Widad Shinnawi (Aqaba); Mariam Abu Dalboush (Mafraq); and Salfa Abu Tayeh (Ma'an).

"I believe that by the end of this month, the situation will be clarified, and most women candidates, who are currently undecided, will have finished evaluating their situation and announced a resolution," Mr. Bader said.

'Sanctions to be levied against political parties found to be violating the law'

AMMAN (J.T.) — The government Friday announced its intention to file sanctions against political parties which fail to comply with the Political Parties Law in regards to divulging their financial resources and presenting their accounts to the Ministry of Interior for due examination.

Minister of Interior Nahir Rashid stated that the majority of Jordanian political parties, which have acquired licences in accordance with the Political Parties Law of 1992, are not complying with that law, particularly in regards to Article 20 of the same.

According to that article, "political parties must provide the minister of interior with a copy of their fiscal bud-

gets in the first quarter of every year, detailing financial resources as well as the given party's financial situation. The minister has the right to examine the financial accounts of each party."

Additionally, Article 19 of the Political Parties Law stipulates that finances must stem from Jordanian, and be known and defined, according to the minister.

The article only allows individual donations and contributions by Jordanian citizens, he added.

The amount of these individual donations should not exceed JD 5,000 per year, as stipulated by the law, Mr. Rashid maintained.

He explained that, in accordance

with Article 25 of the Political Parties Law, the minister of interior has the right to take measures against parties found in violation of the law's provisions.

"The minister is asking that all licensed parties adjust to the given laws and regulations as soon as possible, and until the end of 1997, otherwise he will resort to those powers invested in him to deal with the situation," according to Mr. Rashid's statement.

The Ministry of Interior will soon provide each party with a list of violations heretofore committed, he concluded.

Survey results detail national perceptions of training courses

By Hind-Lara Mango
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A recent survey, randomly distributed to 6,000 Jordanian families in the Kingdom by the Centre for Strategic Studies at the University of Jordan, found a direct correlation between informal education and economic progress.

Informal education was defined as training taken to upgrade skills exterior to a formal academic setting.

According to the study, individuals willing to participate in training courses generally did so in accordance with their belief that such would lead to either employment or, in the case of those already working, a job promotion. In both cases, training was viewed as a source of security.

"In developing countries, training courses target the poor, the young the unemployed, and employed women who want to refine their skills," according to Atheel Al-Jormad, who conducted the study.

Training boasts a direct link to economic performance in terms of the type of manpower a country requires, he added.

In such manner, the government could develop strategies for human resource enhancement, leading to improved economic performances, Dr. Al-Jormad stated.

As Jordan undergoes economic restructuring programmes and applies for World Trade Organisation (WTO) membership, it is critical that the government be able to invest in the sector which best meets market demand, he maintained.

The survey was divided according to age, education, income, gender and region.

Groups were queried as to the importance of taking computer and language skills courses, and if they deemed these courses useful in finding jobs and receiving promotions.

"We wanted to ascertain exactly which category demonstrated interest in training courses," Dr. Al-Jormad stated. "The study indicated that young people judged training courses as very rewarding."

"This [finding] is explained by a younger person having a longer active period to compensate for the cost of said training," he added.

As to how people judged the significance of training courses, 50 per cent of those interviewed described training courses in computers and language as important.

Ninety-five field researchers requested people, between the ages of 15 to 64 years, to describe their views on the importance of training courses in finding jobs or in job enhancement.

The percentage of those who believed computer courses to be, indeed, important was highest for those within the age group of 25 to 44 years.

As for languages, the youngest age category did not believe language courses to be of great significance.

"It seems that those (categorised) within the middle age group are more aware of the importance of training courses," Dr. Al-Jormad affirmed. "(Although), one would have expected the younger age group to show the most interest."

Those within the last age category, of 45 to 64 years showed, the least interest in participating in any type of training.

These findings might indicate that the concept of training is relatively new in Jordan.

In terms of educational background, the study found that those possessing the most advanced educational degrees were more aware of the importance of training courses.

Despite this finding, only 47.7 per cent of those interviewed within higher educational groups have actually ever taken a training course in computers or language skills, the two categories covered.

"Sixty-six per cent of those with a Bachelor of Arts (BA) and higher believed that training courses were an asset in locating potential jobs," Dr. Al-Jormad asserted. "In contrast, only 36 per cent of those who were classified as illiterate felt such training would be useful."

Those with a BA and above believed that it was more productive to attend training courses in language and language skills rather than computers. However, the study clearly demonstrated that those classified among lower education levels would receive the highest benefit from participating in training courses and understanding their relevance in matters related to employment.

The income category was divided as follows: those with a monthly income of JD 20-39, JD 40-99, or JD 100 and greater.

Income did not seem to hold much sway in terms of a given individual's awareness of the significance of training courses, as opinions varied greatly within these categories.

Those within the lower income brackets were often as willing as higher earners to take training courses, but could not afford to do so. Under the category of gender, results indicated that women afforded more weight to training courses than did men.

In the category of those living in abject poverty, it was clear that this group lay great importance to training as a means of finding jobs.

A total of 51.4 per cent of those classified as living in abject poverty, believed training important for gainful employment.

Of this category, 28.3 per cent felt computer courses were relevant to their situation, and 24.3 per cent deemed language skills as useful.

"Understandably, this group's (actual) participation in training courses was minor," said Dr. Al-Jormad.

The study indicated that there was more financial support for women to participate in training courses than for men.

"Women are more amenable to enrolling in training courses and have matched men in their participation," Dr. Al-Jormad explained.

Within this context it was deemed notable that less than 13 per cent of the labour force in Jordan is comprised of women.

Different regions showed varying levels of interest and participation in training courses.

For the purposes of the survey, the Kingdom was divided into northern, central and southern regions.

Statistics attested to those living in central and northern regions as assigning the same degree of importance to training for job advancement, with a higher degree of actual participation in training courses in the central region.

Participation in training courses was low for those residing in southern regions. This group did not feel that computer and language skills courses were linked to job enhancement.

"These are good indications that there is no gap between the north-

ern and central regions," Dr. Al-Jormad said. "In regards to the southern, rural and badia regions, people in these areas are mainly employed in agricultural-related areas."

"As such, computer and language skills courses are not as significant for this group," he stated.

Characterising the regions in terms of rural and urban areas, results showed that city residents expressed more interest in language courses. In addition, they often had increased access to financial support for the same.

"A total of 45.2 per cent living in urban regions described language skills training as important," Dr. Al-Jormad affirmed. "In rural areas 35 per cent [of those surveyed] believed this sort of training to be relevant [to job enhancement]."

"Regarding computer training, 44 per cent of urban area residents thought this type of training important, whereas 34.7 per cent in rural areas attached importance thereto," he added. "Additionally, 61.4 per cent of the urban sector thought training helped in finding jobs or receiving promotions. In contrast with 56.3 per cent of those living in rural areas (who felt similarly)."

According to Dr. Al-Jormad, the study also aimed at drawing a comparison of the types of courses taken by both those who are employed and those unemployed.

The study intended to analyse the type of courses taken by the unemployed and their relevance to finding jobs.

The compiled data was the result of analysis of 32 types of training courses. One category dealt with the type of training courses taken by those employed and the other with those taken by unemployed individuals.

Dr. Al-Jormad explained that, when comparing the two groups, differences between the type of courses taken were statistically significant.

It was discovered that the unemployed often participated in training courses which did not help them in locating job opportunities.

"The unemployed [generally] trained in secretarial, dressmaking, hairdressing and beautician skills," according to Dr. Al-Jormad. "These skills are not in demand in the local market."

"Unemployed persons are not participating in basic skills and vocational training," Dr. Al-Jormad explained.

This section of the survey also emphasised a deficit in administrative leadership courses, hotel management, car mechanics, marketing, trade, and electronic maintenance.

Other sections analysed the type of training in which those employed and unemployed would like to participate if given the chance.

Unemployed persons were further divided into those who were actively seeking jobs and those who were not.

There were differences in courses taken by both groups. However, findings did demonstrate that both employed and unemployed persons were interested in enrolling in the same type of training courses.

The study affirmed that, if the government is to formulate a training policy for the creation of effective economic human resources, the northern, central and southern regions of the Kingdom must be provided with the proper support for training courses.

WHAT'S GOING ON

CONCERT

* Performance by Al Asalah Club on the Accession to the Throne anniversary at the Royal Cultural Centre at 6:00 p.m.

FUHEIS EIGHTH FESTIVAL

* Concert (Iraqi songs) by Hussein Al 'Azami and Hamed 'Abbas at the church museum square at 6:30 p.m.

* Concert by Iraqi singer Mahmoud Anwar at the Main Theatre at 9:00 p.m.

* Exhibitions on Jerusalem, tourism, environment, agriculture, handicrafts as well as slides on Jordan's touristic sites at the festival premises.

EXHIBITIONS

* "Islamic Bookbinding Exhibition" at the British Council, Jabal Amman, until Aug. 31.

* Photography exhibition by Claudia Pedotti at the Jordan Arts and Crafts Centre/Artisana, Jabal Amman, Second Circle (Tel. 647858) until Aug. 16.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Princess Rahma to give 'start signal'

AMMAN (Petra) — HRH Princess Rahma Bint Al Hassan will next Wednesday give the "start signal" for a 20-day march by Sahil Al Hassan adventure group. The march begins in Amman and ends in Aqaba, passing through the Madaba, Tafleh, Karak and Ma'an governorates. The fifty group members will provide humanitarian and public services on the way. They are also to meet with officials and organise cultural events and youth meetings.

Smuggled cigarettes seized

RWEISHED (Petra) — Customs department patrols Friday seized 66,000 smuggled cigarette boxes subsequent to a three hour hunt, during which the patrols and alleged smugglers exchanged fire. Customs Department Director General Nazmi Abdullah stated. Customs patrols apprehended all those suspected in involvement as well as their cars. Mr. Abdullah added.

Lawzi emphasises finishing road designs

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Public Works and Housing Nasser Lawzi Thursday stressed the importance of finalising building and road designs on schedule. Addressing a ministry department director meeting, Mr. Lawzi asserted that implementing rules and regulations governing staff allowances would ensure that all are treated fairly.

Albright lauds Pakistan on 50th anniversary of its independence

WASHINGTON (AFP) — U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright Thursday congratulated Pakistan on the 50th anniversary of its independence.

In a statement, she said Pakistan and the United States "have forged strong and growing economic ties and combined our efforts to nurture democracy, maintain security and fight terrorism and narcotics trafficking."

She said the two countries "can look forward with confidence to even closer cooperation in the half-century ahead—beginning with my visit to Pakistan later this year, which (President Bill Clinton) hopes to follow with a visit of his own."

Meanwhile, at least two people were killed as police opened fire on a crowd outside the mausoleum of Pakistan's founding father Muhammad Ali Jinnah during celebrations for the nation's golden independence jubilee, a senior official said.

Police and paramilitary troops took up positions in armoured vehicles, as trouble erupted some 15 minutes after Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif had left the venue after laying a floral wreath at Jinnah's grave and making a speech, they said.

Witnesses and police had earlier said the two were critically injured.

"There was trouble but the reason is not yet known," an administration official said.

"Two or three people were rushed to the hospital," he

added. Police also resorted to firing in the air and later lobbed tear gas shells as angry youths threw rocks, witnesses said.

A captain of the paramilitary Rangers was seen bleeding as a stone hit his head and a magistrate was also wounded in similar circumstances.

Witnesses said the trouble erupted when a policeman was surrounded by group of youngsters who started taunting and harassing him. Apparently feeling insecure, the unidentified policeman opened fire, triggering panic among the crowd, they said.

The official Associated Press of Pakistan quoting police later blamed the firing on "miscreants."

A senior administration official Muhammad Hussain said, said gunshots were heard from inside the mausoleum at around 6.30 p.m. (1330 GMT).

"The shots sounded like fire crackers. But panic and tension ensued," he added. Calm later returned and traffic resumed on the main road.

"We have withdrawn the police force and an investigation has been ordered," Mr. Hussain said.

Thousands of Pakistanis had thronged the mausoleum to offer up thanks amid nationwide festivities for the 50th independence anniversary, witnesses said.

Carrying flags they made a beeline for the 40-year-old tomb on motorcycles, cars,

cattle-carts, bicycles as recorded national songs filled the atmosphere.

In his speech at the tomb Mr. Sharif directed the police to let the crowd through to hear him.

"I don't need any security. My life is in the hands of Allah. He is my protector," Mr. Sharif said amid clapping by the crowd.

"I am from amongst the people. My life is for them," he said.

The prime minister vowed he would fulfil the aims for which Pakistan was founded. He said he would accomplish the goal of a strong, progressive and prosperous Pakistan given by the nation's hero.

President Farooq Ahmad Leghari had also accompanied Mr. Sharif. But he left before the prime minister speech.

For a few hours earlier in the day residents in southern Karachi, Pakistan's largest city and financial capital, had put aside fears about an upsurge in violence which has left more than 400 dead this year, and which has left them used to the sound of gunfire.

In a rare sight, the sprawling port city was adorned with large and miniature Pakistan flags fluttering from houses and buildings. Even cyclists whizzed past proudly flying the national emblem.

Young people danced on top of their cars and many on the crowded Karachi beaches sprayed soft fizzy drinks as if they were bot-

les of celebratory champagne.

Provincial Governor Moynuddin Hyder and Chief Minister Liaquat Ali Jatoi laid floral wreaths at the mausoleum after a flag hoisting ceremony.

Children among the crowd sang the national anthem while folk artists danced and played popular tunes. Young men wearing hair bands and caps in colours matching the Pakistan flag shouted slogans and made victory signs.

The elderly and their families tramped inside the mausoleum to offer prayers and show their reverence with floral wreaths. Some touched and kissed the marble floor.

"I am here to thank Quaid-e-Azam (the great leader) who achieved Pakistan in the face of enormous hostility by Hindus," said 67-year-old Abdul Qadir, who like millions of others crossed over from India after the 1947 partition of the subcontinent.

But there were many who came to the tomb not to thank but to confess.

"I want to confess today before him (Jinnah) that we have not fulfilled his dream of a Pakistan based on Islamic values of social justice and high moral principles," said 70-year-old Farid Ahmad.

"Now I am close to the grave and have brought my grandsons to make them pledge that they would struggle for a corruption-free Pakistan," Mr. Ahmad added.



Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif (right) holds his country's national flag Thursday at official celebrations for Pakistan's 50th anniversary of independence. Amid fireworks and flags, Pakistan ushered in the anniversary with Mr. Sharif calling for the nation to work for the prosperity of future generations (Reuters photo)

Japan, N. Korea to upgrade talks in Beijing

TOKYO (AFP) — Japan and North Korea announced Friday an agreement to upgrade informal talks on resuming long-stalled negotiations aimed at normalising their diplomatic ties.

Under the agreement, a meeting will be held in Beijing next Thursday grouping Japanese and North Korean foreign ministry officials more senior than those who attended previous unofficial talks in the Chinese capital in July.

Talks on normalising the diplomatic relationship between Tokyo and Pyongyang broke down in late 1992 after Japan questioned North Korea about its nuclear programme and the alleged abduction of Japanese women for training spies.

"We have agreed to upgrade the inter-governmental talks on normalising diplomatic relations to the deputy director-general level," Japanese Foreign Minister Yukihiko Ikeda told a news conference.

"The talks are scheduled to last for one day but we will take a flexible approach," he said.

"We plan to discuss other pending issues such as the issue of Japanese women married to North Koreans — we want to discuss the issue seriously, and I hope that some progress will be made in the issue."

Mr. Ikeda said the accord was not directly linked to the issue of food aid to North Korea, which Japan has been reluctant to provide.

"But we will promote talks while giving comprehensive consideration to the situation," he said.

The official Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) made a simultaneous announcement in a brief dispatch monitored in Tokyo.

"The preliminary meeting will discuss technical problems concerning the resumption of the talks and other pending issues," the report said.

Mr. Ikeda said next week's meeting was expected to be held at either the Japanese or North Korean embassy in Beijing.

The Japanese delegation will be headed by Kunihiko Makita, deputy director general of the ministry's Asian Affairs Bureau, while his North Korean counterpart, Kim Yon-Gil, will lead the North Korean side.

Asked whether Japan would explain the current review of its defence guidelines with the United States, Mr. Ikeda said: "I don't think the upcoming meeting will be held with such a wide scope."

Cambodian prince calls for truce talks

BANGKOK (AFP) — Cambodian Prince Norodom Ranariddh called Friday for ceasefire talks with Second Prime Minister Hun Sen but denied reports his forces had formed a military alliance with Khmer Rouge guerrillas.

Emerging from a meeting with Thai Foreign Minister Prachubhai Chaivassarn, Prince Ranariddh said: "A ceasefire cannot be unilateral. In order to have a ceasefire we must talk."

He was speaking after Mr. Hun Sen — who effectively deposed the prince as first premier last month following bitter factional clashes — ordered his troops to take the last bastion of royalist forces on the Thai border by Friday.

Prince Ranariddh denied a report Friday by Khmer Rouge radio that his forces, under General Nhiek Bun Chhay, had formed a joint command with Khmer Rouge rebels.

"There is no alliance, neither political nor military, with the Khmer Rouge," Prince Ranariddh said.

Asked whether Nhiek Bun Chhay had reached an agreement on the ground, he said: "I have to check, but Nhiek Bun Chhay could not do anything without my approval or consent."

The talks with Mr. Prachubhai focused on efforts by the Association of South-east Asian Nations (ASEAN) to promote a peaceful solution to the Cambodian political crisis and on a proposal for informal talks, an aide to Prince Ranariddh said.

ASEAN members saw the general elections, planned for May 1998, as the key to a lasting solution to Cambodia's turmoil, the aide told AFP.

ASEAN states would drop

their shuttle diplomacy for the time being but would continue to push for a face-to-face meeting of all parties directly involved in the crisis, he said.

Prince Ranariddh said he and Mr. Hun Sen should go together to see King Norodom Sihanouk. Mr. Hun Sen, who earlier declined a suggestion by the king for such a meeting, should think of the interests of the country, the prince said.

On the 1998 elections, the prince said he "must be able to take part without any threats or intimidation from any party."

The aide later quoted the prince as telling Mr. Prachubhai: "I'm not a military man. We should find a solution as soon as possible through negotiations and diplomacy."

Mr. Prachubhai, who was part of the ASEAN team on the Cambodian crisis, said the grouping supported the prince's participation in the elections because he was a key political player in the country. The prince said Friday's talks, held at a Bangkok hotel, were arranged so he could hear what ASEAN ministers said Monday at a meeting in Singapore.

He also thanked King Sihanouk, his father, for his support. The king, who is now in Beijing, met with Mr. Hun Sen and the prince's replacement as first premier, Ung Huot, this week but later denied giving the pair his blessing.

The king is the father of the country he has to take care of the principle, of the constitution," the prince said.

Asked whether he would be going to the Thai-Cambodian border, the prince said: "I do not have a definitive answer on that."

Cambodian officials on

Friday, meanwhile, downplayed King Norodom Sihanouk's denial that he had "blessed" the government's new leadership, saying the monarch was playing a balancing game between Phnom Penh and supporters of his son.

"I think that even the king is not sure of what he wants," said a senior official in Second Prime Minister Hun Sen's Cambodian People's Party (CPP).

"But he has to make a balance between his son's supporters and the royal government," the official said, referring to Prince Norodom Ranariddh who was ousted last month after fierce fighting between his forces and those of Hun Sen.

Late Thursday, King Sihanouk, in Beijing for medical treatment, released a letter to Prince Ranariddh denying claims by Mr. Hun Sen and newly appointed first Prime Minister Ung Huot that he had "blessed" them when they visited him this week in the Chinese capital.

"It is not true that I gave my blessing to the new team," the king wrote.

"I never gave him (Ung Huot) the title of first prime minister which, in all legality, belongs to you always," he wrote. "This, I emphasised to Ung Huot."

On his return from Beijing Thursday, Mr. Ung Huot told reporters that the king had proposed a toast to the delegation which implied that the monarch approved of the situation in Phnom Penh.

In his letter to Prince Ranariddh, the king said he had simply raised his "glass and said to them 'your health'."

"During the audience and the lunch on August 12, 1997, I did not give my 'blessing' to these Khmer 'guests'," he added.

Wife: Karadzic will not leave Republika Sprska

BELGRADE (AFP) — Radovan Karadzic, former Bosnian Serb leader and war crimes suspect, will not leave Republika Sprska, the Serb-run half of Bosnia, his wife Ljiljana said in a newspaper interview published Friday.

"Radovan Karadzic will not leave Republika Sprska," she told the pro-government Yugoslav daily Vecernje Novosti. "Rumours that he is in Hilarand (Greece), Cyprus or elsewhere are ridiculous."

"All the (Karadzic) family members are in Pale where they live normally and go about their daily business," Ljiljana Karadzic added.

Karadzic was indicted in 1995 by the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) in the Hague on war crimes charges but the former president lives in complete freedom in Pale, the administrative centre of Republika Sprska and home to Bosnian Serb hardliners.

Although he is officially

out of office, Karadzic's continued freedom is considered one of the major obstacles to implementation of the Dayton peace accords that ended the 1992-1995 war in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

In an interview for Wednesday's Financial Times, Bosnian Serb President Biljana Plavcic claimed that U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright had offered to send Karadzic into exile in a third country so he could avoid prosecution.

Ms. Albright and the White House promptly denied the claims. "Secretary Albright made no such offer of safe haven for Karadzic," White House Spokesman Michael McCurry said.

"Our position on war criminals, including Karadzic, remains unchanged. No exile for them, no amnesty. Only a fair trial at the Hague in front of the International War Crimes Tribunal," he added.

China considers Taiwan a renegade province.

Mr. Berger's trip came ahead of a U.S.-Sino summit this fall but the security adviser said he did not expect "dramatic breakthroughs" to come from the meeting between Mr. Jiang and President Bill Clinton.

"A summit is an opportunity to engage the Chinese both to expand our cooperation, but also to deal very candidly with areas of difference, and see whether we can make some progress," Mr. Berger said.

Clinton aide cites progress in Chinese freedoms

WASHINGTON (AFP) — National Security Adviser Sandy Berger, just back from a trip to Beijing, said he found broader personal freedom in China but little improvement in political rights.

"The daily lives of the Chinese people improved (d) rather significantly ... over the last 10 years, with a greater degree of choice in where they live and work," Mr. Berger told PBS television Thursday.

"Still there has been very little if any improvement in political rights. And political dissent is still not

enjoyed in China," he said.

Mr. Berger held talks Tuesday with senior Chinese leaders, including President Jiang Zemin, at the seaside communist party retreat of Beidaihe.

"I've said to them very clearly this (political freedom) is an area where we disagree and we would hope to see greater improvement on the part of the Chinese," he said.

Meanwhile, the Washington Post reported Friday that one Chinese official told Mr. Berger that Beijing was disturbed by what it saw as anti-Sino sentiment in the U.S.

Congress. Mr. Berger's

Chinese counterpart Lia Hua Qiu, the paper said, repeated Beijing's denial that it was involved in a plan to influence U.S. politicians through generous campaign contributions in the 1994 legislative election race, currently the subject of a senate probe.

But Mr. Lia was also concerned about general hostility toward China in the Congress, reflected in bills such as a draft resolution that would urge recognition of Taiwan in the United Nations, the Post said, citing a U.S. official.

China considers Taiwan a

renegade province.

Mr. Berger's trip came ahead of a U.S.-Sino summit this fall but the security adviser said he did not expect "dramatic breakthroughs" to come from the meeting between Mr. Jiang and President Bill Clinton.

"A summit is an opportunity to engage the Chinese both to expand our cooperation, but also to deal very candidly with areas of difference, and see whether we can make some progress," Mr. Berger said.

Georgia, Abkhazia vow to end violence

TBILISI (AFP) — The leaders of Georgia and the breakaway Black Sea region of Abkhazia agreed Friday to rule out the use of force in their long-running and bitter conflict.

"Any disagreement will be resolved through peaceful, political means," Georgian President Eduard Shevardnadze and Abkhaz leader Vladislav Ardzimba said in a joint statement, the day after marathon peace talks.

They declared that both sides will "not resort to arms for resolution of the differences dividing them and not under any condition allow a renewal of bloodshed."

Abkhazia, which declared independence from Georgia, drove out Georgian troops in a 1992-1993 war. The two sides have since been separated in an uneasy ceasefire by 1,600 Russian peacekeepers.

The breakthrough accord, reached after an entire day of talks in Tbilisi Thursday, was mediated by Russian Foreign Minister Yevgeny Primakov.

Despite the strongly worded declaration of peace,

the two leaders admitted there were still unresolved questions.

Notably, they made no mention of any progress on the underlying questions of Abkhazia's political status and the return of about 200,000 ethnic-Georgian refugees to the region.

Tbilisi has so far only been willing to offer the Abkhaz autonomy within Georgia.

"There are still major disagreements on certain questions," the joint statement said, adding that "the sides agree on the need to maintain permanent contact with the goal of resolving the problem of the conflict."

Mr. Shevardnadze told reporters that his meeting "under Russian mediation has great significance in the resolution of the conflict."

Mr. Ardzimba said that his meeting with the Georgian president, their first in Tbilisi since the war, "inspires optimism in the process of a peaceful resolution of the conflict. We welcome the fact that we reached agreement to resolve all questions peacefully."

Mr. Primakov, meanwhile, promised that "Russia will do everything possible for a peaceful resolution of this conflict."

The negotiations Thursday were held five years to the day since the beginning of the Abkhaz-Georgian conflict and had not been previously announced, coming as a major surprise.

They appeared to be linked to Russian President Boris Yeltsin's invitation earlier this month to the two sides to sign a peace deal in Moscow.

Mr. Yeltsin, who said he backed autonomy, not independence for Abkhazia, said that if they agreed to talks, Moscow would propose a phased withdrawal of its peacekeepers.

There was a mixed reaction to the historic meeting in Tbilisi, where there are angry memories of losing control of the territory, considered by many to be the most lush and beautiful in Georgia.

Mikhail Maguivaryani, a deputy in the parliament from Mr. Shevardnadze's ruling Union of Georgian

Citizens Party, said that despite the failure to address the status dispute, "the meeting between the two men is a big step for resolving the conflict."

An opposition deputy, Irina Sanishvili, said however that inviting Mr. Ardzimba to Tbilisi was "immoral" and that the negotiations "will end nowhere."

The head of the exile parliament formed by Georgian refugees, Tamaz Nadareishvili, said the talks should not take place without strict guidelines being laid down.

"Only then will we be able to make compromises," he said.

The Abkhaz, a tiny highland people whose homeland is on the Black Sea just south of the Caucasus mountains, sought to break away from Georgia in the days running up to the collapse of the Soviet Union.

Mr. Shevardnadze's forces attempted to wrest back control in 1992, but after fierce fighting that killed thousands of civilians and troops, the Abkhaz drove the Georgians out in September 1993.

Australian premier vows to target tax dodgers as election platform emerges

SYDNEY (AFP) — Australian Prime Minister John Howard vowed Friday that tax dodgers and "lurk merchants" would be targeted in the taxation overhaul with which he will fight elections due within 18 months.

The Goods-and-Services Tax (GST) at the heart of the promised reform, being seen by the media here as the most decisive political gamble of Mr. Howard's career, will mean lower personal income tax for most.

Mr. Howard outlined the tax plan announced earlier this week during a visit Friday to suburban Brisbane, where he told reporters the reforms proposed by his conservative coalition were aimed at delivering a lower personal tax policy.

"The tax dodgers and lurk merchants will certainly be worse off under my reforms — very much worse off — because they'll have to pay their fair share of tax," he added.

"But I can give a guarantee that the overall tax burden will not rise — that's one of the principles underlying the reforms."

Mr. Howard also used his first public appearance since returning to work after a bout of pneumonia to say consideration of a broad-based indirect tax was essential under a thorough examination of the current unfair tax system.

"It must involve the examination of that tax replacing some or all of the existing indirect taxes," Mr. Howard told a Liberal Party dinner in Brisbane Wednesday night.

The Labour opposition, backed by the centrist Australian Democrats, have signalled their intention to oppose the GST all the way to the next election, which Mr. Howard said Thursday would be in 14, 15 or 18 months time.

Labour, under former Prime Minister Paul Keating, managed to sink a coalition challenge under

John Hewson at the 1993 election, when a GST became one of the central issues.

Labour opposition leader Kim Beazley said the GST would kill small business and associated job growth, while imposing a huge burden on those without discretionary incomes and on families.

"Mr. Howard's intention to put in place a Goods and Service Tax would mean they would have to bear the brunt of the taxation system," Mr. Beazley said.

Deputy prime minister and national party leader, Tim Fischer said in Canberra that a GST would create jobs, arguing it was the only way to rinse out the heavy burden of indirect taxes from exports.

He said Australian exports were at a distinct disadvantage against for example New Zealand dairy product flowing into the Middle East because they did not have indirect taxes on their exporting efforts.



Children wave national flags in New Delhi August 16, 1997, on the 50th anniversary of the heart of the Indian

Ministers

Shrine as Ja

AFP — A high cabinet minister, who was on a tour of the country, in the capital, New Delhi, on August 15, 1997, said that the government was planning to build a shrine to the late Prime Minister Indira Gandhi in the capital, New Delhi.

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Indian children wave national flags during celebrations marking India's 50th anniversary of freedom from colonial rule in New Delhi August 15. Thousands of people took part in colourful cultural celebrations and marched through the heart of the Indian capital (Reuters photo)

8 ministers visit controversial shrine as Japan remembers war

TOKYO (AFP) — Eight cabinet members joined Japanese war veterans on their annual pilgrimage to a controversial shrine in Tokyo Friday as the country marked the 52nd anniversary of its surrender in World War II.

The visits to Yasukuni Shrine defied local and foreign critics of Japan's historical amnesia and those who argue that such visits are unconstitutional.

Four other ministers made the pilgrimage before Friday, boosting the number of ministerial visits to as many as 12 compared with nine last year.

But Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto, whose visit to the shrine drew strong protests from several Asian countries last year, refrained from making the pilgrimage this year ahead of his trip to China in early September.

Built to house the souls of all 2.4 million Japanese who died in various wars since 1853, Yasukuni Shrine was used to spread nationalist propaganda during World War II.

The souls of 1,065 war criminals sentenced to death by allied forces at the end of the war are among those venerated at the shrine.

Cabinet members visiting Yasukuni Friday were among 75 non-partisan lawmakers paying their respects to the Japanese war dead.

"I made a visit as a state minister paying my full respects," Health and Welfare Minister Ichiro Koizumi told reporters.

Posts and Telecommunications Minister Hisao Horinouchi said he went to pray for the souls of 250 fellow students who died during the war. "My visit to the shrine is a matter of course," he said.

Japanese Defence Agency Chief Fumio Kyuma meanwhile left for the island of Iwojima to pray for the souls of an estimated 20,000 Japanese soldiers killed fighting American forces in one of the fiercest battles of World War II. Mr. Kyuma is the first Japanese defence chief to visit the island on Aug. 15.

Mr. Hashimoto vowed earlier this month to refrain from visiting the shrine while in office. In July last year, he became the first prime minister to visit the shrine since former Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone broke the post-war taboo in 1985, drawing furious responses from China and South Korea.

The prime minister, formerly head of Japan's War Bereaved Families Association, reportedly turned down a request from

members of his Liberal Democratic Party that he visit the shrine this year.

During a speech at a national ceremony commemorating the end of the war Friday, Mr. Hashimoto expressed his "deep regret" for the wartime suffering.

Joined by Emperor Akihito and cabinet ministers, some 7,400 people, including 3,900 survivors, attended the nationally-televised ceremony at a sports hall located on the edge of the Imperial Palace in central Tokyo.

At midday, the participants offered a minute's silence in front of a wooden cenotaph decorated with white and yellow chrysanthemums.

"Fifty-two years have passed since the war ended but I still feel pain in my heart when I think of the sorrow of bereaved families," Mr. Hashimoto said.

The war brought great suffering and sorrow to the people of Japan and other countries, particularly in Asia," he said. "I want to face the facts humbly, and express my deep regret and sorrow over the deaths of victims."

"I want to keep deeply in mind the lessons we learnt from the war."

Emperor Akihito, the eldest son of wartime Emperor Hirohito, also addressed the gathering. "On this occasion, I renew my deep sorrow for the souls of the victims of the war and bereaved families," he said.

"I hope the calamity of war will never be repeated while praying for world peace and the further development of the country."

Aug. 15 marks the date of Japan's surrender and acceptance of the Potsdam Declaration issued by Truman, Stalin and Churchill on July 26 in 1945.

The surrender, which came nine days after the United States dropped an atomic bomb on Hiroshima and six days after a second bomb was exploded over Nagasaki, was marked by the broadcasting of an imperial precept on national radio, the first one most Japanese had ever heard the emperor's voice.

Between 1937 and 1945, three million Japanese died in the fighting which engulfed an area stretching from Manchuria in the north to New Guinea in the south and from the Hawaiian islands in the east to Burma in the west.

The number of Japanese deaths accounted for about four per cent of the population at the time but was less than the Soviet Union, Germany or China.

Tajik warlords unable to accept peace

MOSCOW (AFP) — The fighting in Tajikistan is the result of ambitious warlords unable to accept a peace accord recently struck with the country's Islamist opposition, President Emomali Rakhmonov said Friday.

Mr. Rakhmonov, in an interview with the Russian Izvestia daily, blamed "forces demanding the annulment of the peace accord or seeking revenge."

"The basis of the rebels' demands is to get rid of certain officials unfavourable to them and prevent the reintegration of the opposi-

tion into the government," he said.

"Another stand-off has resulted in the republic, threatening to turn into a new round of civil war," he said.

Meanwhile a rebellious Tajik warlord accused the government of deploying tanks in his hometown Friday and gave them an ultimatum to leave or face reprisals.

Saying that an accord ending four days of fighting this week had been violated, Colonel Makhmud Khodoberdiyev said: "Three government tanks accompanied

by soldiers entered Kurgan-Tyube this morning. A unit of government forces started looting the city."

He said the force had until 1000 GMT to leave or face "counter measures."

"Tonight and yesterday evening I got major reinforcements from local volunteers," he warned at his military headquarters in the southern city.

Col. Khodoberdiyev said new fighting between his forces and government troops had already broken out about 12 kilometres away in the Bokhtar region.

5 die in clash between Albanian gangs

TIRANA (AFP) — Five people were killed and eight others injured in a clash between rival gangs in the Albanian town of Elbasan, the local police chief said Friday.

The fighting on the outskirts of Elbasan, 50 kilometres south of the capital Tirana, broke out Thursday evening and went on for hours, Police Chief Agron Broka told AFP.

The five dead were members of a gang which attacked a building where two members of a rival gang were entrenched. Four of the eight injured were residents who were hit by stray bullets, Mr. Broka said.

He said the two gangs had access to auto-

matic weapons, hand- and anti-tank grenades.

There are a large number of rival gangs in Elbasan, a town known for its high crime rate.

At least 18 people have been killed in Albania since the beginning of the week.

On Thursday two people were killed during clashes with police in Vlore, 150 kilometres southwest of Tirana.

Police Thursday began seizing illegally held weapons in Vlore, which was at the heart of an uprising that broke out in February.

Thai premier puts outsiders in charge of economic affairs

BANGKOK (AFP) — Thai Prime Minister Chuan Leekpai reshuffled his cabinet Friday, bringing in two outsiders in charge of economic and financial issues.

Telecommunications tycoon Thaksin Shinawatra and former Finance Minister, Virabongse Ramangkura were brought into the cabinet with immediate effect, a government statement said.

Mr. Thaksin would have responsibility for major projects while Mr. Virabongse would be in charge of exports and fiscal and monetary matters in a reshuffle intended "to bring new energy and to tighten up the cabinet," Mr. Chuanwatt said.

Finance Minister Thongchai Bidaya, appointed after technocrat Anurudh Virawan resigned from the government in June amid the country's economic woes, retained his post.

A major reshuffle had been expected after Thailand accepted a \$16 billion bailout under the International Monetary Fund (IMF) this week, but local investors were disappointed and pulled the stock market down, a securities analyst said.

"They were expecting a better reshuffle but (the cabinet) came out pretty much the same," the analyst said.

The reshuffle was an attempt to shore up the government's image, "but the real structure of this government is unchanged," commented Abhisit Vejjajiva, spokesman for the opposition Democrat Party.

Questions about the division of labour on economic and financial matters were bound to lead to a recurrence of the cabinet squabbling which plagued Mr. Chuanwatt's first team, Mr. Abhisit said.

The Education Ministry saw the most drastic changes, with close Chuanwatt ally Sukavich Rangsitpol losing the portfolio but keeping the deputy premiership. Two deputy ministers were replaced and one was dropped.

"Moving Sukavich out as education minister does not reduce his status. He is still responsible for social affairs and sport. I will give him more work," Mr. Chuanwatt said on television.

Mr. Abhisit said Mr. Chuanwatt had moved to shore up the credibility of his government, "removing the more obvious targets for censure" in an opposition oo-confidence debate scheduled for mid-September.

Indian premier vows to stamp out corruption in Golden Jubilee speech

NEW DELHI (AFP) — Indian Prime Minister Inder Kumar Gujral deepened the somber mood enveloping India's 50th anniversary of independence here Friday with a fresh call to stamp out corruption.

Mr. Gujral, following the lead of the country's president a few hours earlier, focused on the nation's failures rather than its successes since 1947.

His hard-hitting speech, after the traditional Independence Day raising of the Indian tricolour at Delhi's 17th-century Red Fort, was witnessed by an audience of 20,000, including leading politicians and five former prime ministers.

One of them, P.V. Narasimha Rao, is currently facing two trials on corruption charges.

Mr. Gujral, speaking following a 21-gun salute and a fly-past by fighter jets at the Mogul fort, said there was corruption "in the post office, in the electricity and phone departments, in politics ... everywhere."

"We have to fight this together," he said.

"Let us take a pledge today that no matter whatever inconvenience or delay or trouble, we will not give bribes," he added, saying there would be "no reprieve" for corrupt officials.

Mr. Gujral's comments came after President Kocheril Raman Narayanan blasted India's growing corruption and "social evils" during a commemorative session in parliament at midnight, exactly 50 years to the hour after founding Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru ushered in India's independence.

Mr. Gujral, speaking from behind a bullet-proof screen, said corruption was "eating away the country like termites."

"I warn those who think corruption is their birthright that the long arm of the law will find them, whether they are officials or occupy political posts ... there will be no reprieve."

A poor turnout of only 15,000 spectators at an official march through the Indian capital Thursday night seemed to confirm the lack of public interest in large-scale celebrations.

On Friday — a public holiday — Delhi's streets were largely deserted, with most businesses closed.

Mr. Gujral, meanwhile, also had some tough words for neighbouring Pakistan, warning the disputed Kashmir region, the cause of two wars between the rivals since 1947, was an integral part of India.

Alluding to the Himalayan region, he said India's sovereignty was "non-negotiable."

"We want to have friendly relations, but there will be no compromise on sovereignty, on terrorism and on the secular unity of our nation," he said.

New Delhi accuses Pakistan of fuelling a Muslim separatist drive in Indian-administered Kashmir which has

claimed more than 20,000 lives since 1989.

Mr. Gujral's statement came a day after Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, speaking during his country's 50th independence celebrations, called for India to try to solve the crisis according to the wishes of the region's Muslim-majority population.

Mr. Gujral lost the attention of his audience momentarily during the fly-past of helicopters and jets.

The aircraft showered rose petals and streaked the sky with plumes of smoke in the national colours of saffron, green and white.

But the downdraft from the aircraft caused a 21-metre high inflatable balloon, representing the national symbol of four lions, to split and collapse.

Mr. Gujral paid tribute to those who had taken part in the struggle against British colonial rule, saying they had helped end "decades of dishonour and slavery."

But he complained women had not "got their due place" since independence. He also called for a nationwide campaign against poverty and illiteracy, echoing independence hero Mahatma Gandhi.

"Let us act on the words of Mahatma Gandhi. 'Each one, teach one' ... let us remember that 300 million people live in dire poverty," he said.

Thousands of Indians gathered at a checkpoint on the border with Pakistan to mark 50 years of the sub-continent's independence from Britain, newspapers reported Friday.

An estimated 8,000 people converged at the Wagah checkpoint, some 30 kilometres from the northern city of Amritsar, late Thursday and chanted slogans calling for friendship between India and Pakistan.

But the Statesman and Pioneer said the Pakistanis did not reciprocate, leading to disappointment among the Indian camp. Only seven Pakistani civilians who had Indian visas attended the all-night function.

"I am disheartened but not despondent," Kuldip Nayar, one of the organisers and a confidant of Mr. Gujral, told the Pioneer.

One of the Pakistanis at the function, Awaiz Sheikh, blamed the Pakistani bureaucracy for discouraging people from attending the show.

The Statesman said the Indian crowds "asked people from the other side of the border to join in the revelry" but added "there was little response."

The Pakistani authorities had, however, put up illuminated decorations on the barricades.

The newspapers said there was a carnival-like atmosphere at the checkpoint, the only open land route between the South Asian rivals. People arrived in cars, motorcycles and tractors.

Many held candles and placards featuring Indian leaders who led the country to independence.

Bangladesh recalls India's role in its own birth

DHAKA (AFP) — Bangladesh Friday congratulated India, its ally in the 1971 Independence War against Pakistan, on its 50th Independence Day acknowledging with gratitude its help in creating this nation.

Bangladeshis commemorated also hailed India's contribution in the 1971 war and praised the country's massive economic development.

Bangladesh President Shababuddin Ahmad congratulated his Indian counterpart K.R. Narayanan in a message.

"In the past 50 years India played a pioneering role in the arena of international politics in safeguarding the interests of the developing nations," he said.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina Wajed said in a message to her Indian counterpart Inder Kumar Gujral: "Geography has made our

two countries neighbours, while the history made us friends."

"In 1971 when we were engaged in a life and death struggle for freedom and liberation, the support and succour we received from India will always be remembered."

The Daily Star newspaper in an editorial headlined "Felicitations" highly praised India for its commitment for democracy.

"They (Indians) have preserved the soul of the country — democracy, that is — against all odds."

"Except for a brief period of emergency, India has always remained unwaveringly wedded to democracy," it added.

The decision to split the subcontinent in 1947 left the Muslim part divided and many observers said the manner in which Pakistan was carved out of Muslim

majority areas in the west and east, was impractical.

Political power gravitated to West Pakistan. Although East Pakistan had more people, it was a struggle to get even its principal language, Bengali, accepted as an official language.

During the 1971 war, in which three million Bengalis died according to official figures, India gave sanctuary to millions.

It also sheltered the leaders of the Bangladesh government who fled there to avoid persecution by the Pakistani army.

The third India-Pakistan war also in 1971 was over Bangladesh and the Indian army backed Bangladeshi forces to an eventual victory.

For most Bangladeshis, 1947 is now little more than the stuff of history and current celebrations have been regarded as "an event of

two foreign countries."

And there was no celebratory mood in Bangladesh, mourning the assassination of founding father Sheikh Mujibur Rahman 22 years ago to the day Friday.

Black flags dotted the skyline here in the memory of Sheikh Mujibur, father of the current Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

However, some still query the wisdom of partition: Newspaper columnists said partition failed to deliver peace and religious harmony and instead left a scar that still haunts the people of the region.

Khaleda Zia, chief of the main opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party in a message to Mr. Gujral said "we are determined to further strengthen regional cooperation under the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC)."

Inter-Korean ties making progress — Seoul

SEOUL (AFP) — South Korea President Kim Young-Sam said Friday relations with the communist North were "clearly making progress" and held out hope that after 52 years of bitter division, the foundations of Korean unity were being laid.

Speaking on the anniversary of Korea's liberation from Japanese colonial rule — a day celebrated in both Pyongyang and Seoul — Mr. Kim also said respect for each other's political systems was a prerequisite for peace.

"Seen from a long-term historic perspective, inter-Korean relations are clearly making progress," Mr. Kim said in the nationally-televised address.

"Concrete steps for peace and cooperation between the South and the North have begun," he said, detailing South-North food aid, preliminary peace talks and

the building of two light water nuclear reactors in North Korea.

"I firmly believe that, in the half-century history of our divided nation, we have never had a firmer foundation for which to lead unification efforts."

"If North Korea chooses the path of change, we have the will and capability to cooperate with it as much as it wants," he said.

Calling peace on the peninsula indispensable to "the future of northeast Asia and the world," Mr. Kim said the four-party talks involving the two Koreas, China and the United States should "reaffirm basic inter-Korean agreements and induce a new accord."

But to this end trust had to be built between Seoul and the isolated Communist regime in the North where "our compatriots are suffering enormous pain due to a food shortage," he said.

The second was, through dialogue, to implement a plan for the common prosperity for the people of the North and South.

Thirdly, he said the South must "help North Korea so that it can improve relations with our allies, participate

in international organisations and receive assistance from the international community."

But Mr. Kim cautioned the steps had to be "preceded by a change in North Korea's attitude" in which Pyongyang "should free their citizens from hunger by rationally distributing their resources" and "behave reasonably as a responsible member of the international community."

"We have actively supported North Korea so that it could overcome the current difficulties, and we will continue to do so. The North Korean authorities should realise however that time does not wait for them."

"I urge them not to wait any longer but to join the historic tide towards openness and reform not only for themselves but, for the future of our people," he said.

Bonn bars convicted extremists from military service

BONN (AFP) — The German army will not tolerate convicted far-right extremists within its ranks, Defence Minister Volker Ruehe said Friday, in reaction to the latest arson attack on a hostel for foreigners.

Police and judicial authorities will report previous convictions to officials recruiting youths, Mr. Ruehe told the mass circulation Bild.

The Defence Ministry said Tuesday the army would demote and dismiss two soldiers suspected of setting fire to a hostel for foreigners in the eastern city of Dresden.

The decision was based on legislation barring conscripts from military service if they violate military discipline.

The two soldiers, aged 18 and 20, allegedly confessed to setting the fire that gutted the Dresden Hostel last

Friday because they hated foreigners.

No one was injured in the blaze. The hostel housed Italian workers, all of whom were away on vacation.

In the interview Mr. Ruehe said no one would be forced to lay open his political opinions but headline neo-Nazis and far-right thugs must be identified to avert serious damage to the Bundeswehr, Germany's armed forces.

"People must not lose confidence in the German army," said Mr. Ruehe.

Juergen Meinberg, a member of the Bundeswehr Association Board which represents soldiers' interests, meanwhile said in an interview to the Berliner Kurier newspaper Thursday that civics classes, which are compulsory for recruits, should seek advice from independent historians and psychologists.

The writer said that the Arabs want the United States to act in such a manner that would serve its own vital interests and win the respect of all parties in this region if it wishes to maintain its role of peace broker.

Marlboro cowboy rides on in Africa

ABIDJAN (R) — The Marlboro cowboy may be riding into the sunset in rich countries with anti-smoking campaigners snapping at his heels.

But in Africa, with its vast horizon and its young and rapidly expanding population, there is no sign that anyone is looking in run him out of town any time soon.

"Africa is one of the areas now being targeted by multi-nationals," says World Health Organisation (WHO) smoking analyst Barbara Zolty. "It's already started."

Cigarette companies are scrambling to Africa's emerging markets from South Africa to Ivory Coast.

"The market is growing hugely. Tobacco companies have nowhere to go with legislation in their own backyard," said one expatriate advertising man arriving in West Africa — once dubbed the white man's grave after fever and other tropical horrors that killed early explorers, traders and missionaries.

Brands are fighting for a share of markets like Nigeria, black Africa's most populous country with 100 million people.

New kiosks and umbrella stalls selling cigarettes and sweets seem to appear each day by the roadside in Ivory Coast's commercial capital Abidjan.

Youngsters outside colleges or on street corners draw on their cigarettes with studied disdain. Struggling taxi drivers increasingly ask: "Do you mind if I smoke?"

In the United States, the Marlboro cowboy and Joe Camel, a cartoon animal promoting cigarettes, are endangered species.

The U.S. tobacco industry, after a long-running legal wrangle in June bowed to tighter federal legislation on advertising and agreed to pay \$368.5 billion in damages for smoking illnesses and prevention.

"Marlboro man will be riding into the sunset on Joe Camel," Florida's Attorney-General Roben Butterworth commented wryly.

Marlboro's square-jawed cowboys on billboards or as part of in-store promotions encourage Africans to smoke.

Jeeps emblazoned with Marlboro and other brand names turn up deep in tropical forests, where even Coca-Cola Co. is rare.

The U.N. children's agency UNICEF wants first-world safeguards in Third-World markets, with bans on advertisements targeting burgeoning youth populations.

Most African countries have few real safeguards. In some, tobacco growing is a major part of the local economy. Many state tobacco monopolies deal directly with global tobacco firms.

"They need partners like us to bring truly international brands to the party," one regional manager told Reuters.

WHO data on smoking exists for only seven of 51 African states, or one-third of the region's population.

An estimated 33 per cent of African men and 10 per cent of women smoke daily, compared to world averages of 47 and 12.

Industry research suggests African smokers light up 10 times a day on average, against 22 in rich countries. Algerians smoke the most. Nigeria has the largest sales volume but industry eyes are also on South Africa and emerging markets like Ivory Coast.

At present, Africa has more immediate health problems to tackle — malaria, AIDS, yellow fever, cholera and tuberculosis.

"If people live longer we will start to see cardiovascular problems, diabetes and cancer," says Ivory Coast's WHO representative Dr. Emmanuel Eben Moussi.

"At present, these are masked by high mortality from first category diseases."

The WHO expects 70 per cent of all smoking deaths to be in developing countries by the mid-2020s, from one-third now.

Francophone African markets, with populations totalling about 62 million people, shrank by around 30 per cent in late 1980s and early 1990s. Many devalued their CFA franc common currency in 1994 as part of efforts to revive their economies.

Sales managers say most countries have yet to turn around. One said sales had grown by up to six per cent a year, but added: "We are certainly not back to the levels in the mid-1980s."

Smokers in Africa tend to buy cigarettes one, two or three at a time, depending on income, against two to three packs a day for Europeans and booming carton sales in Asia.

"Market growth can look big but you are starting from a tiny base," says one sales manager. "About 96 out of 100 people want single sticks (cigarettes)."

Last October South Africa threatened to ban all tobacco advertising unless cigarette warning laws were respected. WHO's Zolty points to South Africa as a role model.

Brand managers say laws are tightening — from packet warnings about nicotine or tar to bans on smoking in public — but policing is slack. "It is as if it did not exist," one said.

Low-tar brands have captured few hearts. "Anti-smoking adverts just don't penetrate," Dr. Eben-Moussi said.

But brand managers expect more legislation. "It's going to happen in the next two years," one sales manager predicted.

How modern man won the biggest battle for his life

By Kathy Marks

DESPITE EVIDENCE to the contrary in rugby clubs and city wine bars, modern humans are not descended from Neanderthal Man, according to scientific research published recently.

With his stocky build, sloping forehead and massive beetle brows, this primitive hominid never appeared the most attractive of ancestors. Now the first analysis of DNA material from a Neanderthal skeleton provides powerful evidence that he was part of a separate evolutionary branch.

The results are a considerable boost to the anthropological theory that human beings originated in Africa about 200,000 years ago and then colonised Asia and Europe, displacing other species. But they will infuriate proponents of the rival hypothesis, that our forefathers left Africa about two million years ago and migrated to other continents, where they evolved into Homo Sapiens. Heated and at times vitriolic debate has raged between the two camps for the past decade.

The research, which is published in the American science journal Cell, was carried out by a team at the University of Munich's Zoological Institute. Their subject was a skeleton fossil discovered in the Neander Valley, near Dusseldorf, in 1856, and regarded as the prototype Neanderthal specimen. The scientists took a tiny fragment of bone from the fossil, which is estimated to be between 30,000 and 100,000 years old. For the first time, they performed the highly difficult task of retrieving a genetic sample

from an extinct species. The DNA that they analysed was so different from that of modern humans that any direct link between us and Neanderthal Man appears to be ruled out.

Professor Svante Paabo, head of the Munich team, told a press conference in London that although the two hominids co-existed in Europe and the Middle East for a period, their last common ancestor probably dated from more than half a million years ago. While the precursors of modern humans thrived and flourished, Neanderthal Man evolved separately, reaching an evolutionary dead-end about 30,000 years ago. "The results clearly lend support to the theory that we all came out of Africa quite recently in history," said Professor Paabo.

Chris Stringer, of the Natural History Museum, one of the world's leading palaeontologists, hailed the work of the Munich scientists as a tour de force. "In palaeontological terms, this is the equivalent of landing the Pathfinder on Mars and getting it to work," he said. "The Neanderthals were very human-like, but that does not make them our ancestors."

The Independent

No relation: Neanderthal Man's distinct facial characteristics (Natural History Museum photo)



German spy without a face looks back with regrets

By Alan Wheatley
Reuters

LONDON — Looking more like a retired headmaster than a once-famed spymaster, Markus Wolf looks back sometimes wistfully, mostly defiantly, at a life serving a state that failed.

Mr. Wolf, now 74, was on the losing side of the cold war.

For 35 years he was the legendary head of East Germany's foreign intelligence service running a network of 4,000 spies, but could only watch with incredulity as the Berlin wall suddenly came down in November 1989, sounding the death knell of the Communist state.

"Within a single night, the old world, the world to which I had devoted my life's work, disappeared," he writes in his memoir, "Man without a Face".

The title is an allusion to the West not knowing what he looked like until 1978, when Swedish counter-intelligence photographed a mysterious East German on a mission to Stockholm and a defector from East Berlin put a name to the blurred snapshot.

All for a "good cause"

Visiting London to promote his autobiography, Mr. Wolf still finds it hard to come to terms with the collapse of East Germany, formally reunited with West Germany in 1990.

"I can't say I'm proud of what I did, I'm not. But I don't think I've lived for nothing," he told Reuters. "I meet my old agents and, although they're worse off than I am — some of them have got long prison sentences — these people don't have the

feeling that they have to be ashamed of their lives."

"They did it in good faith, believing they were acting for a good cause. We've often spoken about it and we don't think we've lived in vain," he said.

Mr. Wolf was found guilty by a Dusseldorf court in May of three kidnappings during the cold war and given a two-year suspended sentence. An earlier conviction of treason was overturned by Germany's highest court in 1995.

Insulated from domestic repression

Mr. Wolf says the work of his spies contributed to east-west détente. Without the secrets they passed on, the Soviet bloc would have known less about NATO and feared it more.

He is less persuasive in denying all knowledge of the other arms of the dreaded Ministry for State Security (Stasi), which kept a tight lid on any internal dissent through a vast web of agents and informers.

One British reviewer, Tom Bower, criticised the spymaster's "self-serving sentimentality and hypocrisy" as he pleaded "honourable blindness".

But Mr. Wolf insists his department was insulated from the Stasi's domestic repression.

He said he did not even have first-hand knowledge of Bautzen, a notorious Stasi prison near the Polish border where very name struck terror into the heart of many East Germans.

"Of course, I read what the Western press said and that was enough. I could imagine what it was like in Bautzen but I never had anything to do with it," Mr.

Wolf said.

He admits to stirrings of doubt about East Germany's sclerotic brand of Communism starting in 1956, when Hungary rebelled and Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev secretly denounced Stalin's murderous purges.

The doubts grew when the Berlin wall was erected in 1961 to staunch a haemorrhage of people to West Germany — Wolf says he had no advance knowledge — and when the rise of the independent Polish trade union Solidarity in 1980 sent shock waves through the Soviet bloc.

But Mr. Wolf kept silent, convinced that, in a rigid hierarchy like East Germany, reform had to come from the top. "Even ministers with responsibility for the economy said things had to change, but that it was up to the leadership," he said.

"It wasn't for want of courage that I didn't speak out, but the system had developed in such a way that it was practically no longer possible. You'd have needed a coup."

Hopes for reform

A convinced Communist, then as now, Mr. Wolf never gave a moment's thought to defecting. But he says he often wonders whether and when he should have stood up to be counted.

"People have a right to ask me this question but I can't come up with an honest answer because I really still don't think that with the system as it was I would have stood any chance of making a difference," he said.

Mr. Wolf, by then retired, did speak at a pro-reform rally in East Berlin on Nov.

4, 1989, a few days before the wall came down, but he was hissed by the crowd, in no mood to listen to a semi-repentant hate figure.

He says he was convinced even at that late stage that East German socialism could reform itself and evolve as an alternative to red-blooded capitalism.

"With hindsight, it was an illusion but I still thought that competition and the laws of the market could also have worked in a socialist economy — if there had been socialism," he makes a point of adding.

A few regrets

If Mr. Wolf has regrets, it is that he failed to do more to help friends who suffered at Stalin's hands.

He mentions a girl he fell in love with at the German school in Moscow who was arrested during World War II, was sent into internal exile and did not reappear until after 1956.

"Of course, I knew something was going on but I didn't lift a finger to see whether I could have helped her. Perhaps I could have done more in my position..." says Mr. Wolf, lost in his memories.

There is a more recent regret. Mr. Wolf, on his first-ever visit to London, would have liked to meet John Le Carre to assure him he had never boasted of being the model for the novelist's famous communist spy chief, Karla.

"He's angry with me because I'm supposed to have said that I was Karla. Well, it's not true. I've never said that. But you'd better not spill the beans — it's part of my image now," Mr. Wolf said with a laugh.

IT'S BEEN A HARD ROCK NIGHT!

THE PLACE TO GO WHEN YOU'VE BEEN WORKING LIKE A DOG!

Hard Rock CAFE

Hard Rock Cafe (hård räk ca-fé) n. 1. palace of music 2. the temple of entertainment 3. great food in a relaxed atmosphere 4. the hottest scene ever in Amman

AMMAN

LOVE ALL SERVE ALL ... SAVE THE PLANET

COCA-COLA

Saudi economy seen performing well in 1997

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Saudi Arabia's economy is projected to perform well in 1997 as the private sector pumps more funds into local projects and high oil prices maintain strong government spending, experts have said.

The economy of the Gulf oil heavyweight will likely extend the strong performance it recorded in 1996, when more private funds found their way back into the kingdom and high oil prices lentpiled the government to overshoot forecast expenditure by nearly \$12 billion, they said.

"Our expectations are that there will be a real growth in the gross domestic product (GDP) of more than two per cent, almost the same as last year," said Ihsan Abu Huleika, a prominent Saudi economist.

"This is a good level in terms of real growth. The main reasons for the good performance include stronger activity by the private sector, higher government spending and an improvement in the overall financial situation," he added.

Buoyed by firm crude prices, Saudi Arabia forecast high spending of \$48.2 billion in 1997. A large part of the funds were allocated for education, health, manpower training and social services.

Bankers said the sharp increase in allocations for

those sectors at the expense of productive sectors would minimise the impact of government expenditure on the overall economic growth.

"Of course, the level of government spending plays a role in growth but not as much as before," a Riyadh-based banker told AFP.

"This is because the increase in spending went mainly for services and the private sector has sharply expanded over the past years," he explained.

In nominal terms, the Saudi GDP jumped by 8.7 per cent to around \$10 billion Saudi riyals (\$136 billion) in 1996 from \$9 billion (\$125 billion) in 1995, mainly because of a surge in oil prices.

But real growth was in the range of two to three per cent compared with around 1.5 per cent in 1995 and a negative rate in 1994.

Although it has yet to embark on major reforms, Riyadh has introduced more incentives for the private sector to encourage it to repatriate part of its overseas funds, estimated at more than \$150 billion.

High oil prices in 1996 and this year have enabled the kingdom to rebuild its international financial reserves, widen its trade surplus, slash a persistent current account deficit and curtail the budget shortfall.

"There is an upswing in the construction and indus-

trial sectors in Saudi Arabia, mainly by the private sector," said Mr. Abu Huleika, a former official at the Doha-based Gulf Organisation for Industrial Consulting.

"The overall financial situation of the country has largely improved and this has combined with government policies of encouraging the private sector to boost confidence in the economy," he added.

"This in turn is encouraging the private sector to bring back its funds and invest at home," Mr. Abu Huleika pointed out.

Bankers said the Saudi economy had already performed well in the first half of 1997 as average oil prices exceeded \$19 a barrel and such sectors as construction, industry and trade surged by more than eight per cent.

They noted most banks and companies, mainly manufacturing firms, reported good results.

"The stock market in Saudi Arabia is the barometer of economic performance. As you see, there has been an upsurge in this market this year, especially in banks and industrial companies," a banker said.

"This was caused by the high profits of those institutions and the expectation that more companies will be established this year," the banker explained.

Iraqi businessmen leave for Syria

BAGHDAD (R) — Several Iraqi businessmen have left to visit Damascus to boost trade ties between Iraq and Syria, severed over the last 17 years, the official Iraqi News Agency (INA) said Friday.

"An Iraqi industrial delegation headed by Adnan Al Qudsi, chairman of the Iraqi Industries Union, left for Damascus for a seven-day visit," INA said.

The visit comes as Syrian officials began talks in Baghdad Wednesday on border demarcation between the two Arab neighbours.

Since July the two states, ruled by rival factions of the Ba'ath Party, have been exchanging economic teams.

"The visit of the (Iraqi) delegation... is within the framework of boosting brotherly relations and consolidating joint cooperation in economic, trade and industrial fields," INA said.

It said the delegation was invited by the Syria's Chambers of Commerce Federation.

Iraq wants to buy from Syria food and other humanitarian goods under its oil-for-food deal with the United Nations which allows Baghdad oil sales worth \$2 billion over six months to buy urgent needs for Iraqis, suffering from U.N. sanctions imposed for Iraq's 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

REUTERS

REUTERS

The Business of Information

Major Currencies & Cross Rates									
Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY	CAD	ITL	FRF	ESP
US Dollar	1.0000	1.6670	0.6334	1.5279	116.34	1.3900	1821.91	2.1025	6.2912
DE Mark	0.5356	1.0000	0.3389	0.8182	62.30	0.7458	075.43	1.1262	3.3696
GB Sterling	1.5789	2.9480	1.0000	2.4083	183.26	2.1994	2874.87	3.3177	9.8278
CH Franc	0.6545	1.2215	0.4145	1.0000	76.12	0.9120	1192.04	137.48	4.1192
JP Yen	0.0086	1.6033	0.5437	1.3109	1.0000	1.1963	15.65	180.55	5.4025
CA Dollar	0.7179	1.3393	0.4547	1.0967	1.20	1.0000	1306.90	1.5087	4.5125
IT Lira	0.0005	1.0243	0.3474	0.8338	1867.84	0.7843	1.0000	11.54	3.4816
NL Guilder	0.4756	0.8875	0.3010	0.7280	55.31	0.8823	886.13	1.0000	2.9908
FR Franc	0.1390	0.2966	0.1008	0.2424	18.48	0.2213	33.41	33.4100	1.0000

Middle Eastern Currencies									
Currency	USD	JOD	SAR	BAH	QAT	KUW	AED	LB	EGP
US Dollar	1.0000	0.7080	3.7505	0.3770	3.6399	0.3063	3.6726	1539.80	3.3020
Jordan Dinar	1.4124	1.0000	5.2973	0.5325	5.1410	0.4312	5.1873	2173.73	4.7910
Saudi Riyal	0.2686	0.1888	1.0000	0.1005	0.97	0.0814	0.98	410.35	0.9044
Bahraini Dinar	2.65	1.8790	9.9433	1.0000	0.65	0.8098	0.74	4082.23	8.9773
Qatar Dinar	0.2747	0.1945	1.0304	1.0304	1.0000	0.0839	1.01	422.83	0.9310
Kuwait Dinar	3.2755	2.3190	12.2848	1.2340	11.92	1.0000	12.03	5040.94	0.9310
Emirates Dinar	0.2723	0.1028	1.0212	1.027	0.9911	0.0831	1.00	418.05	0.9310
Lebanese 1000	0.85	0.4600	2.4370	0.2450	2.3650	0.1984	2.3884	1.0000	2.2040
Egyptian	0.2948	0.2087	1.1057	0.1111	1.0731	0.0900	1.0827	453.71	1.0000

Energy		
Oil	Last	Previous
Brent	18.55	18.59
W. Texa	19.55	19.70
Bonny	19.55	19.50
Dubai	17.30	17.36
UL Gas	210.00	210.00

Mid-East Currencies									
Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY	CAD	ITL	FRF	ESP
SA Riyal	0.2686	0.4081	0.19857	0.40728	31.0492				
AE Dirham	0.2723	0.50862	0.17245	0.41692	31.7078				
KW Dinar	3.2755	6.11005	2.07469	5.0025	381.388				
BH Dinar	0.3770	4.9554	1.68011	4.05199	308.928				
CY Pound	1.8179	3.394	1.151	2.775	211.604				

Metal Prices		
Commodity	Bid	Offer
Gold (oz's)	325.9	328.4
Silver (oz's)	4.41	4.43
Platinum (oz's)	434	437
AL (3 Months)	1721	1724
CU (3 Months)	2278	2283
Zinc (3 Months)	1483	1488
Lead (3 Months)	601	603
Ni (3 Months)	6720	6740

Currency Deposit Rates (Bid)									
Cncy	Month	3 Months	6 Months	9 Months	12 Months	18 Months	24 Months	36 Months	48 Months
USD	5.50	5.62	5.75	5.87	5.99				
GBP	7.00	7.13	7.22	7.12	7.38				
JPY	0.30	0.43	0.44	0.47	0.53				
DEM	3.06	3.12	3.25	3.31	3.38				
FRF	3.19	3.30	3.43	3.52	3.61				
CHF	1.12	1.18	1.50	1.43	1.63				
ITL	9.79	9.91	6.72	6.50	9.48				

Main Equity Indices									
Bourse	Index	Value	Chng	% Chng	High	Low	P-Cl	P-Cl	P-Cl
New York	DOW JONES	8048.41	-13.7	-0.17	8095.56	8043.06	8062.11		
New York	S&P 500	936.92	-0.38	-0.04	942.99	935.22	937		
London	FT-SE 100	5075.8	43.9	0.87	5078.2	5041.9	5031.9		
Tokyo	NIKKEI 225	19099.11	274.93	1.46	19257.2	18917.5	18824.2		
Paris	CAC 40	2998.57	15.13	0.51	3012.97	2982.94	2983.44		
Frankfurt	DAX	4363.09	29.96	0.69	4372.29	4346.95	4333.33		

Energy		
Commodity	Last	Delivery
Coffee (c/lbs)	192	Spot
Cocoa (\$/ton)	1523	Spot
Sugar (\$/ton)	343.3	Spot
Wheat (\$/ton)	146	Spot
Soya (c/lbs)	21.6	Spot
Tea (kg/ton)	165	Spot
Barley (\$/bsh)	0	Spot
Rice (\$/ton)	460	Spot

JOD Cross Rates									
Currency	Buy	Sell	Buy	Sell	Buy	Sell	Buy	Sell	Buy
US Dollar	0.708	0.710							
GB Sterling	1.1235	1.1291							
DE Mark	0.3794	0.3813							
CH Franc	0.4635	0.4658							
FR Franc	0.1126	0.1132							
JP Yen	0.8095	0.8125							
NL Guilder	0.3368	0.3385							
IT Lira	0.3891	0.391							

* Source: Central Bank of Jordan.

UAE moves towards greater central bank powers

ABU DHABI (R) — The United Arab Emirates (UAE) is working on a new law that will give the central bank more power to enforce stricter regulation of the growing financial sector.

Bankers and economists said the new law to replace a 1980 banking law will cover rules introduced in the past few years and give the bank more authority to enforce compliance by the 48 banks, 19 of which are local, operating in the federation.

They say in the longer run the move could also bolster the UAE's chances of becoming a more important regional financial centre, rivaling traditional Gulf Bank hub Bahrain, which hosts some 46 offshore banking units with assets of over \$68 billion.

"We are expecting Union Law Number 10 to be changed soon. It will give

the central bank more power," said a Dubai treasurer.

"It will define clearly Central Bank enforcement powers over the financial system," an Abu Dhabi banker said. "It will force banks to comply and improve operations as the bank sees fit."

The draft law, which has been approved by the Central Bank board, is now awaiting government approval. The main changes were recently published in the Arabic newspaper Al Bayan.

In the past few years, the central bank has introduced various new laws tightening up the financial sector.

"They have become more active in recent years, like limiting large exposures, setting capital adequacy and limiting personal loans," said the financial controller of a local bank. The bank has warned

against dealing with unlicensed fund managers and currency dealers and said banks will soon have to base their accounts on international accounting standards.

Among the more important proposed amendments is one lifting banks' minimum capital to 100 million dirhams (\$27 million) from 40 million. The draft also requires foreign banks to buy 100 million dirhams of Central Bank Certificates of Deposit (CDs).

"It would mean foreign banks have real capital in the UAE," a banker said. Currently foreign banks are required only to assign a certain amount of their capital for UAE operations.

But he said ideally the law should mandate the Central Bank board to review capital levels every five years or so.

Another banker said this would mean little change

for many foreign banks which already hold more than 100 million dirhams in CDs and whose capital is larger than the 100 million minimum.

"Because of the 10 per cent capital adequacy requirement, most foreign banks have more than 100 million dirhams capital in the UAE anyway," he said.

Another proposal deals with banks setting up databases of customer creditworthiness, overseen by the bank. It also talks of ways to crack down on money laundering.

Economists welcome the proposed changes, saying if approved they would go some way to strengthen supervision.

"For the central bank to perform better it needs to be given more clout. If the economy is to grow it needs a powerful, strict and independent Central Bank," an Arab economist said.

Peanuts



Andy Capp

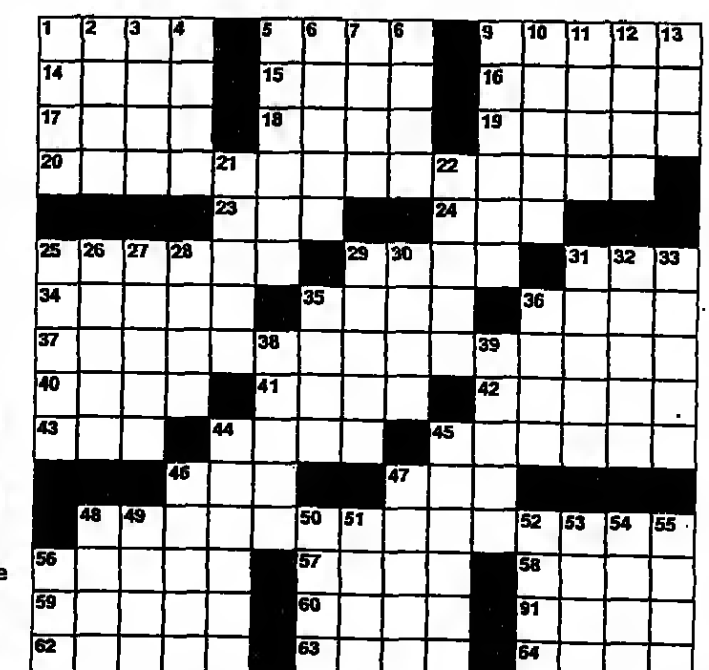


Mutt'n'Jeff



THE Daily Crossword

- ACROSS
- Starting at
 - On — with (equal to)
 - Wedge to prevent rolling
 - Fill the hold
 - Valley, CA
 - Italian philosopher
 - Not under warranty
 - Army group
 - Way to go
 - From — (impeccable)
 - Alphabet letter
 - Aged
 - Depth charge
 - Reveal secrets
 - Word of contempt
 - Porch, of e type
 - Feat
 - Gilbert, of "Roseanne"
 - Secondhand
 - Ireland, to Yeats
 - Allows
 - Lasso
 - Science gp.
 - Metropolis
 - Dane of literature
 - Mazel —
 - Buddy
 - Monkey feature
 - Set of three
 - a song...
 - Site of a famous mausoleum
 - Responsible citizen?
 - Tardy
 - Bring up
 - Outpouring
 - Mild oath
 - Be inclined



by Philip J. Anderson

Puzzle solved:

LAD	ESSES	CAB
LADES	LAMAS	BABY
SOIL	AMORE	ANET
ERSE	PEKE	ALSLE
REMIT	EDICT	
GRETA	DEALER	
ITCHY	ANTE	NAME
BOUT	DIDOS	ORIP
INFO	ELMO	TSARS
DIFFER	INTOW	
HONOR	ANIMAL	
WOMAN	ARAM	TOGA
EVEN	ATONE	GRAM
SEED	TERNS	HOPE
TNT	ONSET	NED

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- DOWN
- Like stale beer
 - Impetuous
 - Garfield's buddy
 - Coordinate
 - Amphibian
 - Garden flower
 - Baked in —
 - Dam it!
 - List of names
 - Pleased
 - Put to flight
 - Hormone
 - whizz
 - Giraffe's cousin
 - Like some cheese
 - Skiing resort
 - Groove
 - Gardeners, at times
 - Inlet
 - Peevish
 - Scaleless fish
 - Trite
 - Mountain ridge
 - Attacked
 - Twosome
 - Use the pool
 - Martini item
 - Vestment
 - Stick
 - Ceased
 - 46 Belief
 - Religious sculpture
 - Stage item
 - Ms. Moreno
 - Aswan river
 - Refuse
 - Pielet
 - American author
 - Mosul's land
 - 55 Fat
 - Den items

HOROSCOPE
FORECAST FOR
SATURDAY, AUGUST
16, 1997
By Thomas S. Pierson,
Astrologer, Carroll
Righter Foundation

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) You should not get into anything too expensive or you could find yourself short of funds in an emergency. Spruce up your appearance today; you never know who's watching and the way people see you is important.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Get your home in fine shape today, and then have a nice quiet evening there with loved ones. Plan to budget for extra comforts very soon which will make you close friends and loved ones feel quite special.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Plan how to please fellow associates more in the days ahead. Forget that worry which has been pecking away at you. Cheer up, its the weekend and you know of some interesting recreational activities which can be fun.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) It's a good day today to divulge knowledge you have to close friends. Some advice you get could help you make considerable headway in your career activities. Later this evening would be good for relaxing with your loved ones.

LE

Mid-year results of companies weigh on AFM trading — Amad

By Samir Ghawi
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Interest rates did not drop in order to activate trading at the stock exchange but the main factor behind the performance at the Amman Financial Market (AFM) last week has been the mid-year financial results of public shareholding companies, Nasser Al Amad, who provides the Jordan Times with a weekly analysis on share trading, said Friday.

Mr. Amad, general manager of the brokerage firm United Financial Investments, pointed out that mid-year results are better than those posted in 1996 as many companies have either raised their profits, reduced their losses or even returned to profitability.

As such, he indicated, these results have weighed on the volume of trading and prices of shares listed on the market and will continue to be a main factor for this week's performance.

Mr. Amad mentioned that institutional buying was continuing and that share prices remain sensitive to any signs of demand.

"These factors combined consolidate the belief that a rebound at the market will be taking place during the coming weeks," the general manager asserted.

Turning to the details of trading, a weekly AFM report shows a total volume of JD3.4 million during four days of trading compared to JD6.1 million spread

over five days in the previous.

The average trading per day was calculated at JD0.9 million.

The number of shares traded totalled 2.1 million shares executed through 2,135 contracts.

The industrial sector came on top in terms of the volume of trading which, at JD1.82 million, accounted for 53.9 per cent of the total. The sector of banks and financial institutions recorded a volume of JD1.03 million and ranked second with a 30.5 per cent share.

The services and insurance sectors recorded JD0.51 million and JD15,000 respectively for a 15.1 per cent and 0.5 per cent share.

The general price index closed at 165.2 points compared to 166.24 points at the end of the previous week. The 1.04 point decline represented a 0.63 per cent drop.

The drop affected the banks and finance sector by 1.63 points or 0.75 per cent, the industrial sector by 0.72 points or 0.58 per cent and the insurance sector by 0.29 points or 0.25 per cent. The price index for the services sector rose by 0.27 points or 0.25 per cent.

Shares of 88 companies were traded last week. Of those shares, the prices of 33 rose, 26 fell and the shares of the remaining 22 companies stabilised.

Additional information can be obtained from the brokerage firm United Financial Investments at the Amman Financial Market.

Daily Beat

A review of news from the Arabic press

Scrapping of customs boosts Syrian demand for Jordanian white cement

IMMEDIATELY AFTER exempting Jordanian white cement from Syrian customs duties, the amounts of sales to the neighbouring market increased noticeably, Eid Abu Karaki, the general manager of White Cement Manufacturing Company, has said. Mr. Abu Karaki expressed hope that Syrian imports would return to the previous volumes. "We hope the (volume) reach 60,000 tonnes annually," he said.

In 1994, when exports of white cement were exempted from customs duties, Syria's imports were about 41,000 tonnes. When customs duties were reimposed in 1995, sales to Syria went down to 27,000 tonnes and then further down to 19,000 tonnes in 1996. "We have exerted major efforts with our Syrian brothers since 1995 until now to convince them of the necessity to exempt all exports to the Syrian market of all customs duties," Mr. Abu Karaki revealed.

The Jordanian market needs of white cement is about 55,000 tonnes whereas the Syrian market's needs is about 120,000 tonnes annually. Jordan also exports a large amount of white cement to the Saudi market.

The Jordanian white cement sells for JD91 per tonne in the local market but other countries sell the product for between \$150 and \$200 per tonne. According to Mr. Abu Karaki, there is no plan to raise the price of white cement in the foreseeable future.

The Jordanian white cement company which employs about 250 employees, has posted a JD826,000 net profit in 1995 but its profitability improved in 1996 when the company scored a JD977,000 net profit.

According to Mr. Abu Karaki, the company aims this year at generating sufficient cash liquidity to repay the loan instalments and interest. However, he said that there has been general slow-down in marketing white cement in the local and outside markets over the past six months. He added that demand for white cement is weak and that the international prices for the products are low. Such a situation, he indicated, has caused a difficult situation for the company but he predicted the situation to change following the exemptions of Syrian imports from customs duties (Al Dustour).

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET

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ORGANIZED MARKET TRADING ACTIVITY FOR THE PERIOD 10/08/1997 - 15/08/1997
WEEKLY REPORT



DATE	TIME	COMPANY NAME	P/E	DIV	NO. OF CONTRACTS	NO. OF SHARES	VALUE	OPENING PRICE	LOW	CLOSING PRICE	CHANGE	AVERAGE	TURNOVER	NO. OF TRADING DAYS
10/08	10:00	AMMAN NATIONAL	12.4	1.38	55	1140	295400	259.00	259.00	259.00	0.00	259.00	295.40	4
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THE BETTER HALF. By Glasbergen

STANLEY, HOW COME WE NEVER KISS GOOD NIGHT ANYMORE?

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JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLE WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Mike Arghill

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LUFTO

COITS

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INVOIL

Print answer here: _____

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Answer: What Dad ended up with at the Little League game - A BOX SEAT

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Jordan's soccer champions Al Wihdat (File photo)

Arab Cup Winners' Cup Wihdat play Saudi Arabia's Shabab tonight

By a Jordan Times
Staff Reporter

THE ARAB Cup Winners' Cup opened Friday in Ismailia, Egypt with eight teams taking part.

Jordan's representative Al Wihdat will be playing their first match Saturday evening against Saudi Arabia's Al Shabab. Group 2 also includes Kuwait's Al Arabi and Algeria's Mawloudieh.

Group 1 includes Egypt's Al Ismaili, Qatar's Al Itihad, Balata of Palestine and Libya's Al Ahli.

Al Wihdat arrived in Ismailia Wednesday following a week-long intense training camp in Alexandria where they also had two friendly matches in preparation for the August 15-25 event.

Al Wihdat's training camp and preparations come amid hopes to retain their Premier League title under new Iraqi coach Anwar Jassam who previously trained the Iraqi national teams.

The draw has placed Al Wihdat in the relatively tougher group. Al Mawloudieh include five of the Algerian national

team; Al Shabab are trained by a Brazilian coach and are led by top Saudi striker Saeed Oweiran.

The Saudi team will, however, be missing professional players like Saleem Dossari and Fahd Mohallal who are on duty with their national team preparing for the second round of the Asian World Cup qualifiers.

The Kuwaiti team will also be missing its internationals currently preparing for the same qualifiers. Al Wihdat will play Algeria's Mawloudieh Aug. 19 and Kuwait's Al Arabi Aug. 21.

The semifinals will be played Aug. 23 and the

final Aug. 25.

The top two teams from each group qualify to the semifinals. The Arab Soccer Federation has allocated \$50,000 for each participating team. There will also be lucrative prizes of \$50,000 for the winner, \$30,000 for runner-up and \$20,000 for the third placed team.

The referees for the tournament include Omar Bashtawi of Jordan, Hassan Ali of Egypt, Karim Dahou of Algeria, Mohammad Shilmi of Libya, Nabil Ayyad of Lebanon, Yousef Agili of Saudi Arabia and Jassem Khouri of Qatar.

Championship timetable

Sat. 16/8	Mawloudieh-Arabi	7 p.m.
	Wihdat-Shabab	9 p.m.
Mon. 18/8	Ahli-Itihad	7 p.m.
	Ismaili-Balata	9 p.m.
Tue. 19/8	Wihdat-Mawloudieh	7 p.m.
	Shabab-Arabi	9 p.m.
Wed. 20/8	Balata-Ahli	7 p.m.
	Ismaili-Itihad	9 p.m.
Thurs. 21/8	Wihdat-Arabi	7 p.m.
	Shabab-Mawloudieh	9 p.m.

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A SWITCH IN TIME

East-West vulnerable, North deals.

NORTH
♠ A Q
♥ 10 9 7
♦ K 7 2
♣ Q 8 5 4 3

EAST
♠ J 8 2
♥ 8 5 4 3
♦ A J 10
♣ A 7 2

WEST
♠ 10 8 7 5 4
♥ A Q 2
♦ Q 8 6 6
♣ A 6

SOUTH
♠ K 6 5
♥ K J 8
♦ 10 4 3
♣ A K J 10

The bidding:
NORTH EAST SOUTH WEST
1NT Pass Pass Pass
2NT Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: Eight of ♠

It is not easy to become a good defender. We would wager that a fair number of our readers would come up with the right suit for West to shift to if there is no trump to be beaten. We are not sure how many would select the winning card.

This hand was played during the Fall North American Champl-

ionships in Atlanta, West, Haig Toland of the University of Ontario, heard his right-hand opponent open one no trump and left-hand opponent raise to three no trump. He selected the eight of spades, a card that conventionally showed length but no great liking for the suit, as his opening lead.

Obviously, declarer held the king of spades. The fact that South did not go after the table's long suit suggested that clubs were a secure source of tricks, giving declarer the ace-king. And the fact that declarer tackled hearts at trick two indicated that the king-jack were in the closed hand.

That marked East with the ace of diamonds, and perhaps the jack-ten as well. Since finding partner with A J x x or A J 10 was the only chance to defeat the contract, West went for broke by shifting to the queen of diamonds. No matter what declarer did, the ace of hearts was the entry to the king diamond, so the defense administered a two-trick defeat for all the matchpoints.

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Agassi finally wins as Sampras eliminated

INDIANAPOLIS (AFP) — Andre Agassi produced his best tennis in six months as he saved three set points, then finished the job for a 7-5, 6-1 victory over third seed Alex Corretja to reach the quarterfinals of the \$1 million RCA championships late Thursday.

The 14th-seeded American began turning the corner this week after sinking to a decade-low No. 74 ranking on the ATP Tour list.

The three matches in a row that he has won here is his best showing since

reaching the semifinals last February in San Jose, California.

"As each match goes by, they get tougher," said Agassi, seeded 14th. "I'm glad I was able to raise my level. It gives me a lot of confidence."

Spain's Corretja, the World No. 5, became the former World No. 1's highest-profile win this year.

"I'm not disappointed, he just played better than I did," said the Spaniard. "He has gotten himself out of trouble in other matches this week. In the second set, he played much bet-

ter." Corretja joined a group of leading lights including world No. 1 Pete Sampras, Swedish No. 4 Thomas Enqvist and No. 6 Marcelo Rios of Chile as losers in the third round.

Seven of the top eight seeds have been eliminated.

Sampras was stunned in a battle that turned on two tiebreakers, going out to 16th-seeded Swede Magnus Larsson 7-6 (8/6), 4-6, 7-6 (7/5).

Enqvist was upset 7-5, 3-6, 6-3 by Czech Jiri Novak while Rios lost to Australian Mark Woodforde 7-6 (8-6), 6-4. Sampras was displeased by his showing — and especially by tennis balls which he thought were too light for the conditions.

"It was frustrating, the ball seemed to fly away from my racket," said Sampras, who won the title here last year and had not been beaten since the quarterfinals at queens club, London, in June.

"I didn't lose my serve once, this was a tough one to lose. But he has beaten me before and he was once No. 10 in the world. I've just got to put this one behind me, take a few days off and go to the U.S. Open."

Larsson was pleased with his showing: "When you've beaten him once, you can do it again. He didn't seem like he was on the top of his game. I've beaten him on indoors, hardcourt and clay courts. It's always good to get a win like this."

Woodforde was the only



Pete Sampras

Australian out of four to advance into the quarterfinals. Compatriots Richard Fromberg, Jason Stoltenberg and Todd Woodbridge all took defeats.

Ninth seed Jonas Bjorkman of Sweden ousted No. 7 Woodbridge 6-2, 7-5.

Stoltenberg couldn't follow up on his fighting second-round victory over Goran Ivanisevic, going out to qualifier Tommy Ho of the United States 6-4, 6-3, the World's No. 329-

ranked player. Fifth-seeded Spaniard Carlos Moya disposed of Fromberg 6-2, 6-4 taking a 3-0 lead, missing on break points for 4-0 and wrapping up the morale-boosting victory — two games later.

"There are still aspects of my game that are not dialled in," said Agassi. "But this win was more than taking just one more step."

I moved up several levels. It was nice to get a comfortable win."

Third seeded Philippoussis loses in big upset

NEW HAVEN, Connecticut (AFP) — Mark Philippoussis became the biggest seed so far to fall at the Pilot Pen International when he was upset by David Wheaton, and defending champion Alex O'Brien was also beaten on a day when 10 players had to do double-duty to catch up after rain had washed out most of Wednesday's play.

Albert Costa, seeded six, was also beaten, but top seed Yevgeny Kafelnikov

advanced to the quarterfinals by beating Slava Dosedel 6-2 6-3 and second seed Sergi Bruguera overcame Francisco Clavet 6-4, 7-6 (7-4).

Philippoussis was outlasted 6-7 (2-7) 6-3 6-4 by American David Wheaton, who won the final eight points to defeat the third seeded Australian in the biggest upset at this year's event. Wheaton later returned to court to beat Marc-Kevin Goellner 7-6 (8-6), 6-4 and reach the quarterfinals.

"I didn't play anywhere near as capable as I can play," said Philippoussis, whose sister used to send fan letters to Wheaton. "I

was feeling confident, but I wasn't very intense. I've got to find out why. It hasn't been there for a few weeks now. I need to really think about what I'm doing and maybe just relax a bit and come firing at the U.S. Open."

Wheaton underwent surgery at the end of March to remove a bone spur in his right heel. Since returning in July he has reached the quarterfinals in Newport and New Haven, and the semi-finals in Washington.

"When I came back I was very eager to play," said Wheaton. "I made sure I was in really good shape. The first couple of matches were important and fortu-

nately I got through those, and once you have those wins you gain a little confidence and are on your way."

O'Brien was surprised 7-5 6-3 by Goellner, who fired 12 aces and won four of five break points.

"I played very poorly. I was a little slow and a little out of it today. I felt slow and lethargic," said O'Brien. "He's a good player and he's got a great serve and he took it to me today."

Albert Costa was overwhelmed by the serving power of Britain's Greg Rusedski, who hammered him with 15 aces and a relentless barrage of volleys.

"I took a few risks, but I wanted to be aggressive and make him play every return, and my tactics paid off," said 25th ranked Rusedski. "This win has taken me closer to realising my goal of reaching the top 20."

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SPORTS IN BRIEF

Limpar goes home

LONDON (AFP) — Former Arsenal and Everton star Anders Limpar has returned home to Sweden on a three month contract with Stockholm side AIK Solna. The club announced Friday. Last April, English Division One outfit Birmingham City annulled the Swedish international winger's contract just weeks after signing him from Everton. Limpar, who won league championship, FA Cup and European Cup Winners' Cup medals at Arsenal, started only four matches for the Midlands. He left Sweden nine years ago for young boys of Switzerland, moved on to Cremonese in Italy and then enjoyed his most productive spell at Arsenal.

Gebreselassie in car crash

ADOIS ABABA (AFP) — Ethiopian track star Haile Gebreselassie has been injured in a car crash here after returning home from setting a new 5,000m world record in Zurich. The accident happened as Gebreselassie was being driven from the airport to his home on Thursday evening. He was immediately treated at St. Gabriel's Hospital where doctors said he had suffered only minor injuries.

ANNOUNCEMENT FROM WATER AUTHORITY OF JORDAN INVITATION FOR BIDS

Date: 16/8/97
Loan: IFF
The Water Authority of Jordan is now inviting bids for the construction of a water treatment plant in the city of Amman. The project is financed by the World Bank. Bids must be submitted by September 20, 1997. For more information, please contact the Water Authority of Jordan, P.O. Box 2412, Amman, Jordan. Tel: 22139. Fax: 671.

Complete set of the tender documents will be provided to any interested eligible bidder upon payment of a non-refundable fee of J.O.D. 20. The fee must be accompanied by a bank guarantee for the full amount of the fee. The fee will be refunded to the bidder upon successful completion of the tender process. The tender documents will be available from September 20, 1997, to September 23, 1997, at the Water Authority of Jordan, P.O. Box 2412, Amman, Jordan. For more information, please contact the Water Authority of Jordan, P.O. Box 2412, Amman, Jordan. Tel: 22139. Fax: 671.

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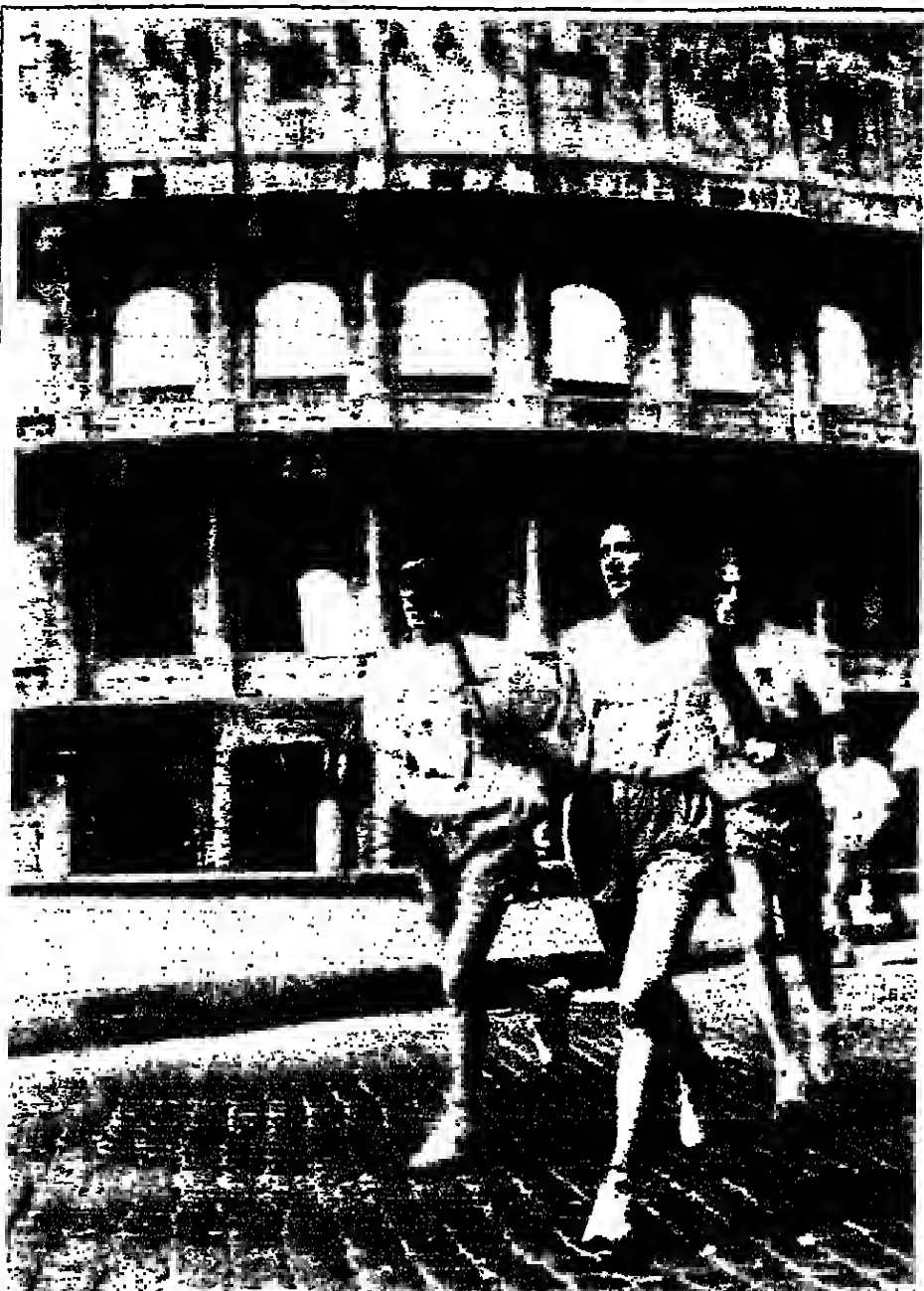
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performance starts at 8:30 p.m.

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Runners carry an Olympic style torch past Rome's landmark colosseum as part of their Olympic Cities Tour 1997 August 15. Rome is one of five cities bidding for the 2004 Olympic Games and is considered to be favourite along with Athens when the International Olympic Committee names the winning city at a meeting in Lausanne on September 5. The runners are participating in a solidarity run to highlight the need for blood and organ donations (Reuters photo)

Hungarian Kovacs wins 25-km swim

SEVILLE, Spain (AP) — Rita Kovacs was not even breathing hard after swimming 25 kilometres (15.5 miles) in sullocking heat Friday in southern Spain to win the long-distance title at the European Championships.

"I swam four races in South America in February between 60 kilometres (37.3 miles) and 88 kilometres (54.7 miles)," said the 27-year-old Hungarian. "Maybe this distance wasn't so long, but it was really warm out there, nearly hot."

The understated Hungarian splashed around the finish area in Seville's Guadalquivir River afterwards, politely turned down a cold drink and acted like she'd just jumped off the nearby dock to get relief from the 40C (100F) heat.

"Maybe I don't look like it, but it was a very, very fast race," said Kovacs who finished in 5 hours 21 minutes 58 seconds, just ahead of Italian Valeria Caprini (5:23:28) and Edith Van Dijk of the Netherlands (5:25:28).

Van Dijk was second in this race at the Euros two years ago.

The victory adds to Kovacs' long-distance laurels. She began long-distance swimming six years ago, was second at 25 kilometres in the 1994 World Championships and won at 5 kilometres in the '95 European Championships.

UAE's Al Khalifa wins Rumman Hill Climb

By Roufan Nabhas
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Sheikh Jaber Al Khalifa of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) clocked best time of 1:55:38 in his Caterham Super 7 to win the Kingdom's most popular auto sports event, the Rumman Hill Climb, which was held Friday with 47 participants from UAE, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Lebanon and Jordan taking part.

Lebanon's Nahil Karanu came in second with 1:57:33 in his Lancia Delta Integral 4x4 Astra and Jordan's champion Ahmad Dawood finished third clocking 2:08:35 in his Renault 5 GT Turbo.

Jordan's Tala Shawa broke the best time registered for women with 2:30:97 with a difference of 2:34 seconds set by Maria Asfour who holds the best time.

Sharif Hussein Ghazi, and Tani Khilasi withdrew from the race in the first round after facing mechanical failure.

His Royal Highness Prince Faisal closely watched the race from the beginning until the finish in the evening.

A vast number of auto sports enthusiasts also followed the race as competitors in the two session event tried to

break the record set by His Majesty King Hussein in 1989 in his Mercedes Benz 190 with a time of 1:57:28.

First initiated by King Hussein in 1956, the Rumman Hill track is three kilometres long in one of the most scenic parts of the Kingdom near Jarash.

The race, organised by the Royal Automobile Club of Jordan (RACJ) was put on halt for several times until it was revived again by King Hussein and His Royal Highness Prince Abdullah in 1987.

The best time by an Arab competitor is 1:56:58 by Lebanon's Jean Pierre Nasrallah in a Lancia Delta while the best world time was by Stig Blomqvist in a Ford RS 200 with a time of 1:53:66.

Drivers were required to equip their cars with safety measurements that range from having a steel cage and steel bars for protection.

Two of Jordan's top drivers, Marouf Abu Samra and Bushar Bustani did not participate for personal reasons.

Trophies were distributed to overall fastest time, single fastest time and fastest car in the group in a special ceremony at the RACJ headquarters.

18th Jordan Cup gets underway

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Kingdom's second most important soccer competition, the Jordan Cup, got underway Thursday with teams representing the Premier League as well as the First and Second Divisions taking part.

The 41 competing teams have been divided into four groups and all Premier League teams except for last year's runner up, Al Ramtha, have been given first round byes.

While Al Faisali are the competitions' record holders with 9 titles in the past 18 years, Al Ramtha were runners-up eight times and won it two consecutive years (see table).

Premier League teams have dominated the title except for 1986 when Al Arabi won the title.

Titleholders Al Wiladat have won it four times and Al Jazireh once.

In the event's opening matches, Qouazi beat Prince Hassan Club 6-3, Sahab beat Za'turi by default, Itihad Mada-ba beat Kufroum 4-3 on penalties and Bal'ama beat Sahm 3-2 on penalties also.

Championship record (runner-up in brackets)

1980	Faisali (Baqaat)
1981	Faisali (Ramtha)
1982	Whdat (Ramtha)
1983	Faisali (Ramtha)
1984	Jazireh (Ahli)
1985	Whdat (Faisali)
1986	Arahi (Jazireh)
1987	Faisali (Hussein)
1988	Whdat (Faisali)
1989	Faisali (Ramtha)
1990	Ramtha (Hussein)
1991	Ramtha (Whdat)
1992	Faisali
1993	Faisali (Ramtha)
1994	Faisali (Ramtha)
1995	Faisali (Ramtha)
1996	Whdat (Ramtha)

Angels beat Brewers; A's overcome Sox

MILWAUKEE, (AP) — Todd Greene hit a three-run homer, and knuckleballer, Dennis Springer pitched a six-hitter Thursday as the Anaheim Angels snapped a three-game losing streak Thursday with a 5-1 victory over the Milwaukee Brewers.

The Angels moved into a tie for first in the AL West with Seattle. The Mariners were at Baltimore Thursday night.

Rickey Henderson, acquired by Anaheim Wednesday in a trade with San Diego, started in left field and led off. The career stolen base leader went 0-for-5 and stole third in the ninth.

Springer (8-5) didn't allow a walk and recorded his only strikeout in the ninth inning. Jose Mercedes (4-7) gave up eight hits and five runs in 8-plus innings.

Before the game, the Angels released Eddie Murray, one of three players in history with more than 3,000 hits and 500 homers to make room for Henderson.

In Boston, John Valentin's bases-loaded

triple highlighted a five-run eighth inning that led Boston over Minnesota 6-1. It was the sixth straight loss and ninth in 10 games for the Twins.

It also was the second straight loss for Brad Rutke (16-7), whose streak of 12 victories in 12 starts was broken last weekend by New York.

With the score 1-1, Scott Hatteberg led off the eighth with a double. Darren Bragg was hit by a pitch and Jeff Frye bunted for a single. Nomar Garciaparra drove in one run with a single. Valentin hit his three-run triple and Mo Vaughn drove in the final run with a base hit.

Jeff Suppan (6-1) pitched eight innings — his longest stint in the Major Leagues — and gave up one run on six hits with five strikeouts and two walks.

In Cleveland, Charles Nagy pitched like an ace and got homers from Manny Ramirez, Jun Thome, Sandy Alomar and David Justice as Cleveland drubbed Detroit 12-1.

The Indians, trying to shake a slump, build

momentum and stay in first place in the AL Central, won their first series since August 1.

The two-time defending division champs are 11-13 since Aug. 18.

Ramirez had three hits, including his 19th homer, two RBIs and two outstanding catches in the outfield. Nagy (12-8) allowed three hits in eight innings, recording 13 groundball outs. In his third straight strong start, Nagy didn't allow a hit from the fourth to the eighth, retiring 15 of 17.

In Chicago, Jason Giambi and Matt Stairs each hit two-run homers and RBI doubles to lead Oakland over Chicago 12-5, snapping the White Sox's four-game winning streak.

Giambi hit his 13th homer in the first inning and Stairs hit his 18th in the third to give Oakland its seventh win in 18 games.

Ernie Young added his third homer, a two-run shot in the eighth, and an RBI single in the ninth to close out the scoring.

Buddy Groom (2-2) picked up the win with 1 2-

3 innings of hitless relief. Chuck McElroy (0-2) took the loss.

In New York, Tim Lincecum, in his second game back from the disabled list, capped a four-hit night with a go-ahead, two-run double in the seventh inning to lead New York over Kansas City 10-5.

David Wells (14-5) won his fourth straight start, striking out seven in 7 1-3 innings as the Yankees won for the fifth time in six games.

Tino Martinez drove in four runs, raising his league-leading total to 113, but the victory also came with a cost as second baseman Luis Sojo, hitting .307, had his wrist fractured when he was hit by a pitch.

With New York trailing 3-2 in the seventh, Gregg Olson (1-1) walked Chad Curtis leading off and Pat Kelly sacrificed. Joe Girardi reached on a hit off Olson's glove. Derek Jeter walked and Ramirez hit a drive over the head of centre fielder Johnny Damon for a ground-rule double.

MAJOR LEAGUE STANDINGS AND RESULTS

WASHINGTON (AFP) — American League results and standings after Thursday's games.

Results:

Anaheim 5, Milwaukee 1
Boston 6, Minnesota 1
Cleveland 12, Detroit 1
NY Yankees 10, Kansas City 5
Oakland 12, Chi White Sox 5
Seattle at Baltimore. Postponed

American League East

Team	Won	Lost	Pct	Gb
Baltimore	73	42	.635	-
NY Yankees	71	48	.597	4
Toronto	58	60	.492	16 1/2
Boston	59	63	.484	17 1/2
Detroit	56	64	.467	19 1/2

American League Central

Team	Won	Lost	Pct	Gb
Cleveland	61	56	.521	-
White Sox	58	60	.492	3 1/2
Milwaukee	57	61	.483	4 1/2
Minnesota	51	69	.425	11 1/2
Kansas City	49	68	.419	12

American League West

Team	Won	Lost	Pct	Gb
Seattle	66	52	.559	-
Anaheim	67	53	.558	-
Texas	58	62	.483	9
Oakland	49	73	.402	19

WASHINGTON (AFP) — National League results and standings after Thursday's games.

Results:

San Francisco 7 Chicago Cubs 3
Los Angeles 1 Montreal 0
San Diego 5 Cincinnati 4 (10 Innings)
NY Mets 6 St Louis 2

National League East

Team	Won	Lost	Pct	Gb
Atlanta	75	47	.615	-
Florida	69	50	.580	4 1/2
NY Mets	67	53	.558	7
Montreal	60	59	.504	13 1/2
Philadelphia	42	75	.359	30 1/2

National League Central

Team	Won	Lost	Pct	Gb
Houston	65	56	.537	-
Pittsburgh	59	61	.492	5 1/2
St Louis	54	66	.450	10 1/2
Cincinnati	52	67	.437	12
Chicago Cubs	49	73	.402	16 1/2

National League West

Team	Won	Lost	Pct	Gb
San Francisco	68	54	.557	-
Los Angeles	66	55	.545	1 1/2
San Diego	58	63	.479	9 1/2
Colorado	57	64	.471	10 1/2

ANNOUNCEMENT FROM THE WATER AUTHORITY OF JORDAN INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

Date: 14/8/1997
Loan No.: KFW/L
IFB No.: 67/97/GMD/L

1. The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan has received a loan from Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau in Deutsche Marks towards the Sector Programme Water Supply II. It is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments under the contract(s) for which this IFB has been issued.

2. The Water Authority now invites sealed bids from bidders in the Federal Republic of Germany (eligible bidders) for the supply and erection of automated gas chromatograph/mass detector data system.

3. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from, and inspect the bidding documents at, the office of the Secretary General, Tenders Division, Water Authority, P.O. Box 2412, Amman, Jordan, Tel. 680100, Tlx. 22439 WAJ JO, Fax. 679143.

4. A complete set of the tender documents may be purchased by any interested eligible bidder on the submission of a written application to the above and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of JD150.

5. All bids must be accompanied by a security in the amount of 2.5% of the offered total and must be delivered to the office not later than 1500 hours, Jordan local time, on Saturday, September 20, 1997.

6. Saturday, September 13, 1997, is the last day set for the purchasing of tender documents.

Eng. Munther Khleifat
Secretary General
Water Authority

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Palestinians unable to link NY suspected bombers to Islamists

HEBRON (AP) — Palestinian police have been unable to establish a link between the Islamist groups and the two Palestinians suspected of plotting a terrorist bombing in New York, a top Palestinian security official said Thursday.

West Bank security chief Jibril Rajoub said investigators have not found evidence linking Lafi Khalil, 22, and Ghazi Ibrahim Abu Mezer, 23, to Hamas or the smaller Islamic Jihad.

He said Abu Mezer was affiliated with the secular

Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), while Khalil "has a history of bad ethical behaviour, nothing to do with politics."

CNN quoted a senior law enforcement source Thursday as saying that investigators now suspect that Abu Mezer and Khalil's motive for planning the bombing was "not the same as the motives of the terrorist organizations."

Earlier, U.S. investigators said they suspected the two intended to use explosive devices found in their apartment to carry out suicide bombings in the style of Hamas, which has been blamed for the July 30 attack that killed 16 in a

Jerusalem market. Israel has sent secret service agents and police to New York to look into the affair.

Both Abu Mezer and Khalil have spent time in Israeli jails on minor charges such as stonethrowing and entering Israel without a permit.

Relatives have denied the two could have planned terrorist attacks. "It is a conspiracy," said brother Nour Abu Mezer, 32. "I wish they would give me a visa to go to the United States so I can help to find out the truth."

Hebron, complained that he was treated rudely when he called a Brooklyn hospital to speak to his brother — who was shot and wounded during the July 31 raid on his apartment.

"They put me on hold several times and... laughed," he said. "They put me through to one person whom I asked if I could speak to Ghazi. He told me I could not. I asked 'why not?' he said 'you simply can't.'"

The PFLP is a PLO faction that opposes the Arab-Israeli peacekeeping. Friends have said that Abu Mezer later switched to the mainstream Fatah movement.

Doctor says 'miracle' Briton survived Israeli desert attack

TEL AVIV (R) — A doctor said on Thursday it was a "miracle" British hitchhiker Charlotte Gibb survived three gun shots at close range in Israel's southern desert.

"The miracle was that the bullets that hit her face did not cause damage save for (damage) soft tissue. The bullet in her arm caused no damage to the nerves or artery," a doctor who treated her told Israel's Channel Two Television.

"The battle now is to prevent infection," he said. Ms. Gibb's 22-year-old boyfriend, a British law student, was killed in the attack.

The British consulate in Tel Aviv named the dead man as Jeffrey Max Hunter, from Surrey south of London.

"I'm fine," Ms. Gibb, 20, told Israel Radio on Thursday.

Police said the two tourists had hitched a ride at a petrol station in the Red Sea resort of Eilat. The driver shot them during a stop 120-kilometre north of the resort at about 1 a.m. and drove off.

"We were having a cigarette outside the car, during a rest from the journey, and then I just saw lots of flashes and he'd shot us," Ms. Gibb told reporters.

"There was silence, we weren't really speaking, and then I just saw the light," said Ms. Gibb, a student from Peterborough in eastern England.

Minutes after the shooting, soldiers found Ms. Gibb beside the road and administered first aid. The

man died instantly. Ms. Gibb spent Thursday recuperating in Soroka hospital in the town of Beersheva, where doctors carried out surgery on bullet wounds to her cheek, right hand and left arm.

"I'm very thankful, very thankful she's alive," Ms. Gibb's mother told Channel Two without giving her name. "It was a very large, triple miracle."

Hospital officials said Ms. Gibb could be released as early as Sunday. Her parents arrived in Israel on Thursday.

The motive for the shooting, the second attack involving young British tourists in Israel in three weeks, was unclear.

Police said the driver may have fled to Egypt.

57 per cent of Israelis support sanctions on Palestinians

TEL AVIV (AFP) — A majority of Israelis approve Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's decision to impose harsh economic sanctions on Palestinians following last month's double suicide bombing in Jerusalem, according to an opinion poll published Friday.

The survey found that 57 per cent of those questioned backed the sanctions, which included sealing Palestinian areas and withholding \$40 million in tax revenues owed by Israel to Palestinian National Authority (PNA).

While certain aspects of a trade and travel embargo on the Palestinian areas have been eased in recent days, Mr. Netanyahu has refused to release the frozen funds or permit Palestinians to enter Israel, saying these sanctions will only end once Mr. Arafat takes action against radical militants.

At the urging of U.S. peace envoy Dennis Ross, Mr. Arafat agreed this week to resume meetings between Palestinian and Israeli security services, in the presence of a U.S. intelligence official, to discuss the fight against terrorism.

But Mr. Netanyahu has not deemed this sufficient to warrant release of the tax funds.

The poll, published in the Maariv newspaper, did not get respondents agreed with say Mr. Netanyahu's hard line.

The tax refunds, which Israel owes to the PNA under signed peace accords, represents some 60 per cent of the self-rule government's total operating budget.

Loss of the revenue has forced the PNA to borrow money from local banks and has held up salary payments to many of the administration's 30,000 employees — notably members of the police who are supposed to lead the fight against extremist violence.

While the survey found wide support for Mr. Netanyahu's handling of the crisis with the pale associated position Labour Party chief Ehud Barak still holds a lead in popularity over the right-wing premier.

Asked who they would vote for if elections — now scheduled for 2000 — were held today, 42 per cent chose Mr. Barak and 38 per cent Mr. Netanyahu. Twenty per cent had no opinion.

The survey was conducted among 510 Israeli adults and had a margin of error of 4.5 per cent.



RECORD CROWD BELIEVE ELVIS IS DEAD: Memorials left by fans pile up around Elvis Presley's gravesite at his Graceland Mansion in Memphis Friday. Thousands of Elvis fans from around the world are in Memphis to participate in the candlelight vigil to honour the entertainer on the 20th anniversary of his death. Graceland officials are expecting a record crowd to participate (Reuters photo)

Nurse tells court of brutal attack by British soldiers

LARNACA (AP) — Fighting back tears, a British tourist told a court Thursday how she was held back as her boyfriend was beaten up by British soldiers standing trial on assault charges.

Claire Harbour, a 22-year-old nursery nurse from London, was the first prosecution witness in the trial of five British soldiers accused of attacking her, her boyfriend Barry Ford and a friend, Shane Bell, outside a nightclub in the southern Cypriot resort of Ayia Napa on Aug. 2.

The soldiers, who pleaded innocent, face seven years in jail if convicted. They are members of the first battalion of the 600-strong King's Regiment, which is based in Dhekelia, a British military base.

The case has embarrassed the British, and some local newspapers complained that the soldiers are tarnishing Cyprus' reputation as a holiday destination.

The assault left Ms. Harbour with a badly-bruised arm and Mr. Bell with a broken wrist and 20 stitches to his face. Mr. Bell suffered a broken jaw.

Her eyes brimming with tears, Ms. Harbour recounted in a choking voice,

through an English-Greek interpreter, how a soldier held her and pulled her hair back.

After identifying 26-year-old Roger Bell as one of their alleged attackers, Ms. Harbour told the court that he followed her and Mr. Ford as they walked back home in the early morning hours.

"He walked in front of us and hit Barry on the face with a punch. The next thing I remember was Barry being punched and kicked on the floor by possibly eight men. I also saw Shane being kicked and punched by four people."

She said she was pulled back, and when she struggled free from the person holding her, "I recognised him. It was Roger Bell."

In a three-hour testimony, Ms. Harbour said her boyfriend's eyes and face were cut and bloodied and blood was oozing from the other friend's mouth.

The three, who arrived in Cyprus on July 23 for a holiday, are also suing the case of three British soldiers based in Dhekelia who sexually assaulted and then beat to death with a spade a Danish tour guide in 1994. The three were sentenced to life in prison by a Larnaca court last year.

Ms. Harbour is due to return to the witness stand on Monday, when the trial resumes, for a second round of cross-examination.

Four of the defendants — Bell, Steven Girvan, 20, Tim Carter, 20, and Steven Wolstencroft, 26 — remained standing in the dock throughout Thursday's hearing. The fifth defendant, 20-year-old Stuart Spencer, waited outside the courtroom.

Mr. Spencer was arrested several days after the others, which means his case will be heard separately.

Judge Michael Christodolou said he would set a date for Spencer's trial sometime after Aug. 25.

The case has led British military authorities to again ban the 600 members of the King's Regiment from visiting Ayia Napa — nicknamed "Sin City" for its wild night life.

A similar prohibition was lifted only last month. It was imposed following the case of three British soldiers based in Dhekelia who sexually assaulted and then beat to death with a spade a Danish tour guide in 1994. The three were sentenced to life in prison by a Larnaca court last year.

Trapped tourists hammer at hull of sunken ferry on Manila bay

MANILA (AFP) — Hong Kong tourists trapped under a capsized ferry on Manila bay hammered on the wooden hull in a desperate plea for help, but the sounds slowly died away as the shadows lengthened, weary rescuers said.

"Five minutes ago they were alive. Now they are dead," said Fung Tse-Chung, a Hong Kong tour guide and one of the 39 survivors.

The King Roger, carrying 46 passengers and three crew members, was tipped over by big waves and strong winds, within minutes after setting sail near the Philippine navy headquarters Friday afternoon.

By nightfall, the toll from the trip advertised as a cruise into the world-famous Manila bay sunset was four dead and six missing.

Four lucky Hong Kong tourists had earlier backed out of the cruise moments before it set sail.

crane was attempting to lift the sunken ferry — towed to the back of the navy headquarters — in a bid to retrieve the missing, navy spokesman Lieutenant Commander Salvador Cuba said.

The missing included three Hong Kong Chinese and three Filipinos, Manila police chief Avelino Razon said.

Alfonso Belling, head of volunteer divers who were the first on the scene, told Agence France Presse (AFP) that when they were trying to tow the boat to shore about two hours after the accident, they could hear some "knocks" on the hull but could not enter the ferry. The sounds from underneath faded, he said.

Despite the accident happening near the navy headquarters, response was slow in coming, witnesses said.

The first to respond were volunteer divers from the district of Pasay but they had no diving gear. The frogmen

from the special forces arrived about four hours after the accident.

By evening, after hacking through the hull with axes, rescuers could only find pieces of wood and plastic.

The military divers and volunteer divers battled darkness and the stench of the pitch-black waters of Manila bay late Friday in an attempt to recover more bodies, but no more were found with a navy assault boat zooming in its floodlights on the murky waters littered with flotsam, about 20 frogmen — half without oxygen tanks and masks — alternately took turns in trying to penetrate the overturned three-deck ferry, whose outriggers were the only parts visible above the water.

"It's dark in there," army officer Vicente Rinalos told AFP just after coming out from a dive four metres under water. "We were just feeling our way through," he added.

Weeping Elvis bust to go on tour

DEURNE, the Netherlands (AFP) — An Elvis Presley bust that has reportedly been shedding tears since last week is going on tour, its Elvis look-alike owner, said Thursday.

Toon Nieuwenhuis said the bust, which has attracted droves of "pilgrims" and the world's press, will accompany him this weekend to Amsterdam, where he is performing in a concert to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the king's death. The weeping bust will also be shown throughout the Netherlands and Germany.

Dodi in hot water with California model

LONDON (AFP) — Princess Diana's new beau, Dodi Fayed, is in hot water with a California model who plans to sue him for breaking off their engagement and causing distress by only informing her of his new love interest through the media, according to a London paper. The unidentified model's lawyer, Gloria Allred, told Thursday's Evening Standard that "important information" would soon be released on Fayed's relationship with the jilted lover at the time he was photographed with the princess.

Public convenience inconveniences elderly lady

LONDON (AFP) — When the telephone rings all night and the caller remains obstinately silent on the other end, it might not be a nuisance caller but equally a refrigerator or a dysfunctional toilet. BT, Britain's main telephone company, sought to reassure people Thursday and in particular those who receive nuisance calls that their telephone numbers might have been called by machines that are programmed to telephone a number when they go wrong. One example included an elderly lady who was being continually telephoned in the middle of the night by a malfunctioning public toilet that had been programmed with the lady's home number.

Rolling Stones will hold Brooklyn Bridge 'captive'

NEW YORK (AFP) — The Rolling Stones will take over the Brooklyn Bridge Monday to present their new album titled "Bridge to Babylon," the group's publicist said. The publicity stunt will be beamed across the world and the group will use the occasion to announce its concert tour itinerary. The Stones last went on tour in 1994-1995 to promote their Voodoo album. According to the Stones recorded 13 tracks for the new record.

Elle blackmailed with undesired publicity

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Two men pleaded innocent to charges they threatened to post nude photos of model Elle Macpherson on the Internet if she didn't give them \$60,000. Michael Robert Mislter, 29, is charged with burglary, using a threatening letter of extortion and attempted extortion. William Ryan Holt, 26, is charged with using a threatening letter of extortion and attempted extortion. They appeared in court Tuesday. Both are behind bars pending an Aug. 26 hearing.

Egg producer love 'Maria'

PADUA (AFP) — An Italian egg producer had "I love you Maria" printed on 200,000 of his best eggs to show his wife he is no slouch when it comes to romance. The eggs were marketed like any others, and triggered an avalanche of phone calls to businessman Alfonso Lago, the newspaper El Mattino reported. Lago said the egg messages were a sort of penance to his wife for having his mind on things other than love.

Israeli advisor to PNA action w

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